



## Fascinating Bat Facts...



- Bats are the only mammals that are able to fly.
- There are about 1100 different species of bats. Bats make up about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all mammals!
- Bats feed on many different foods: most eat insects, but many eat fruit, and some eat fish, frogs, and even other bats.
- There are three species of vampire bats that feed only on blood, but none of these species lives in the United States.
- Bats can vary in size from the giant flying fox with its six-foot wingspan, to the bumblebee bat, which weighs about as much as a quarter.
- Most bats use echolocation to avoid running into obstacles. They make loud sounds that humans cannot hear, and the echoes from those sounds allow them to catch insects in flight, and avoid a wire as thin as a human hair. Bats are not blind, and some bats have such good eyesight that they fly around at night using only their vision!
- Under ideal conditions, a bat can catch 600 insects in an hour (one every six seconds)!
- There are 45 different species of bats that are found in the United States, some of those species can live to be over 30 years old.
- Bats generally only give birth to one or two pups per year – the young fly when they are about one month old.
- All bats avoid people. Unless the bat is in torpor or hibernation (the deep sleep that bats experience during the day or during winter), any bat that allows you to handle it is likely to be sick. Such bats should **never** be touched! Bats do not attack people, but they will bite in self-defense. If you are bitten, try to capture the bat to have it tested, but in any case you should see a doctor immediately.
- If a bat must be moved for some reason (to get it out of the house, perhaps), the safest way is to put a box or can over the bat, then slide a piece of cardboard under the container so that the bat is trapped safely inside.

For more information on bats you can contact:

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