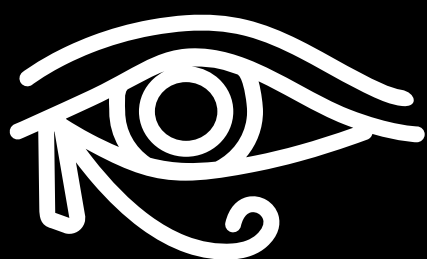


Myth: BATS ARE BLIND



Actually, most bats' eyesight is as good as humans and is tailored to low-light, like a cat's. Some bats, like fruit bats, also see in colour, the same as us.

Myth: BATS ARE FLYING MICE

Bats are NOT flying mice. They are more closely related to humans than rodents! Bats are such unique animals that scientists have placed them in a group all their own, called 'Chiroptera', which means hand-wing. Also, unlike many small rodents that have very short life spans, our small bats have long lives with some reported to live for up to 40 years!



Myth: BATS FLY INTO YOUR HAIR



Bats do not try to become tangled in hair. In fact, insect-eating bats are equipped with a built-in sonar system that allows them to navigate at break-neck speed through total darkness. Their unique echolocation ability is literally thousands of times more efficient than any similar system built by humans. If a bat swoops toward you, it's probably after the flying insect or moth that is hovering just above your head, not your hair.

Myth: ALL BATS CARRY RABIES

All bats do not carry rabies, but like many wild animals it is possible for a small percentage of bats to be infected with rabies. So, even though bats look cute and cuddly, as wild animals they should always be left alone and not picked up and handled because it is only natural for any wild animal to try to bite in self defense when they are fearful. Always report any bats exhibiting abnormal behaviour, such as being out in daylight hours or lacking the ability to fly, to your regional CWHC Office or local wildlife department.



Myth: BATS ARE PESTS



WRONG. Bats help control pests! For example; Little brown bats can snap up between 500 and 1000 mosquito-sized insects in one hour, as well as other little pests!!! Many of the insects that bats eat are forest and agricultural pests, so they're preserving habitat for other animals, protecting our crops, and keeping down food costs.

Myth: VAMPIRE BATS SUCK YOUR BLOOD!!!

Vampire bats are very small (about the size of a package of M&Ms) and do not prefer to feed on humans. Instead they would rather get their teaspoon-sized meals from other animals and not by "sucking" blood but by lapping it up, in the same way that dogs drink water. The remaining species of bats eat insects, fruit, nectar and pollen. A few species eat fish and frogs. Insect-eating bats eat billions of tons of insects each summer.



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