



# BATS

## TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-BAT CONFLICTS:

- **Do not handle bats with your bare hands.** Bat bites can cause injury and carry disease.
- **Seal potential roosting locations within your home.** Placing caps on chimneys and blocking outside entryways to crawlspaces, attics, and under porches will deter bats.
- **A leashed dog is a safer dog.** When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
- **Ensure your pets are up-to-date on rabies vaccination.** Prevention is the best medicine in the event your pet is bitten by a bat. Remember, the majority of bats DO NOT carry rabies. A study by the CDC found the positivity rate among bats to be approx. 6%.
- **Understanding reduces fear.** Bats are often feared and misunderstood by humans, but they are incredibly beneficial creatures. They help pollinate plants and eat unwanted insects, like mosquitoes.

## BENEFITS OF BATS

Bats play an important role in their environments. Some plants depend partly or wholly on bats to pollinate their flowers or spread their seeds, while other bats also help control pests by eating insects- like mosquitoes!

You can help increase bat populations, and biodiversity, by installing bat boxes on your property.

## NATURAL HISTORY

- Bats may fly through the air like birds, but they are true mammals. They belong to the order Chiroptera, a Greek word meaning "hand-wing," which accurately describes their most notable and unusual anatomical feature.
- Bats are insectivores and eat insects like beetles, moths, and mosquitos. They are incredibly efficient at insect control! For example, one little brown bat can consume up to 500 mosquito-sized insects in just an hour!
- Bats are typically social creatures, and prefer to live and roost in large groups. In many species, males and females roost separately except when mating.
- Bats are nocturnal- meaning they are active at night. During the day, bats rest, groom, and sleep. At night, they emerge to forage for food and drink water. After feeding for an hour or two they may rest again, then have a second feeding before dawn.