

BAT FACTS

- There are 1,000 species of bats worldwide. Ohio is home to 13 different types of bats. The most common is the Brown Bat.
- Bats are not blind. But, at night they use sounds and echoes to detect objects. They have large ears and excellent hearing, which helps them locate their prey. They use Echolocation, which is the use of sounds and echoes to find objects. The sounds hit an object and an echo comes back. The bat can tell where the object is and how big it is by listening to the echo.
- Bats can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes and insects in one hour. Some also use their tongue to eat fruit and sip nectar. They drink water on the fly.
- A group of bats is called a colony. A baby bat is called a pup.
- A litter size is one pup in a one-year period being born in May or June. Pups are nursed with milk and only raised by the mother. It takes 6 to 9 weeks for them to be weaned, but they usually start flying at three weeks of age. Their average life span is 40 to 50 years.
- A bat box should be placed at least 15 feet high, and have 20 feet of open space with no obstructions. It should be placed on the Southeast side of a house, garage or a pole. They should not be placed on a tree. The house needs to be exposed to 6 to 8 hours of sunlight per day. Bats sleep or roost during the day, hanging upside down with their claws.
- During the winter months, some bats migrate to South America, or they hibernate in caves or mines. This period is usually from fall until about March.