

Let's take a look at some common bat myths and dig into the real facts.

Myths Busted

Bats are blind. BUSTED! Bats' eyes are fine. They see as well as any other animal. However, bats use echolocation to send out sound waves and listen for the echo sound to hunt for food.

All bats carry rabies. BUSTED! According to the U.S. Center for Disease and Control Prevention, only 5% to 6% of bats captured for testing have rabies. Therefore, just like any other wildlife, you shouldn't handle a bat.

Bats fly toward people and get tangled in their hair to build a nest. BUSTED! Using echolocation, it might appear that bats fly erratically and swoop down on you, but they are tracking movement of bugs. Bats don't make nests, so they aren't looking to get into your hair.

Bats suck people's blood. BUSTED! While vampire bats have been known to bite people on rare occasions, they feed on cattle and other animals. They make a small bite and suck a tiny amount of blood. The animals don't even feel it and it doesn't harm the animal.

Bats aren't important to the planet. BUSTED! Bats eat thousands of bugs, including pesky mosquitoes, each night serving as a natural pest control for plants. Bats are pollinators. They also spread seeds that grow into plants.

Bats are a type of bird. BUSTED! Bats are the only flying mammals on the planet. They have fur, give live births, and mothers nurse their young.