

## Bat Myths and Facts

Bat Myths	Bat Facts
<p><b>All bats carry rabies.</b></p>	<p><b>Less than one percent of bats carry rabies.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You cannot get rabies from being in the same room as a bat</li> <li>• If you are bitten by a rabid bat or other animal (raccoons are the most common rabies vector in DE), you can be easily treated if medicine is administered soon after exposure.</li> <li>• Concerns about rabies should be directed immediately to the rabies hotline.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bat droppings (guano) are poisonous to me or my children.</b></p>	<p><b>Bat guano is a valued fertilizer. A specific fungus can grow on bat guano, which if disturbed and inhaled can cause "histoplasmosis."</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Histoplasmosis exposure is preventable, use a face respirator in areas with large amounts of guano.</li> <li>• Histoplasmosis occurs naturally in the environment, bat droppings are one of many ways to be exposed to the spores.</li> <li>• More information in our Bats and Health Concerns fact sheet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bats...</b></p> <p><b>...get tangled in people's hair.</b></p> <p><b>...swoop and attack me when I'm in the pool.</b></p> <p><b>...are aggressive and try to bite people.</b></p>	<p><b>Bats have a sophisticated echolocation system they use to hunt tiny insects and avoid collision.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bats can see you, they have good vision.</li> <li>• Using echolocation, bats can avoid a strand of fishing line with no trouble.</li> <li>• Bats eat insects like mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are attracted to people, so occasionally bats hunt around people.</li> <li>• Bats do not attack, but will use their teeth to defend themselves if cornered or grounded.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bats are dirty and covered in lice.</b></p>	<p><b>Bats groom themselves frequently and keep their fur very clean. There are a few specially adapted parasites sometimes found on bats.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bat bugs are a cousin of bed bugs and are occasionally found on bats.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Someone told me to kill a bat with a tennis racket because they can't see it coming.</b></p>	<p><b>NO! There is no need to kill bats that accidentally get into buildings.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never strike, spray or whack a bat.</li> <li>• Bats to be submitted for rabies testing should not be released.</li> <li>• Bats in buildings should be isolated to one room, windows or doors to the outside opened, and lights turned on until the bat finds its way back outside.</li> </ul>