

# BATS

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# Acknowledgement

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HOARY BAT



**BIG EAR BAT**



RED BAT



TOWNSEND  
BIG EAR BAT



EVENING BAT

## WESTERN MASTIFF PUP







SPOTTED BAT

WESTERN  
MASTIFF BAT





EASTERN PIPISTRELLE

MEXICAN LONG TONGUED





BIG EARED  
SPOTTED BAT

## Bat Facts

- The nearly 1,000 species of bats account for almost a quarter of all mammal species
- Bats are the only flying mammal
- A single little Brown Bat can catch 600 mosquitoes in one hour
- 20 million Mexican Free-Tail Bats from Bracken Cave, Texas eat 250 tons of insects nightly
- Tequila produced from Agave Plants whose seed production drops to 1/3,000th of normal without bat pollination

- Bats do not become entangled in human hair, are not blind, and seldom transmit diseases to other animals or humans.
- Nearly 40% of American bat species are threatened or endangered.
- Mexican Free-Tailed Bats sometimes fly up to two miles high to feed or to catch tailwinds that carry them over long distances at speeds of more than 60 miles per hour.



## LITTLE BROWN BATS



LITTLE BROWN BATS



## **PALLID BATS**

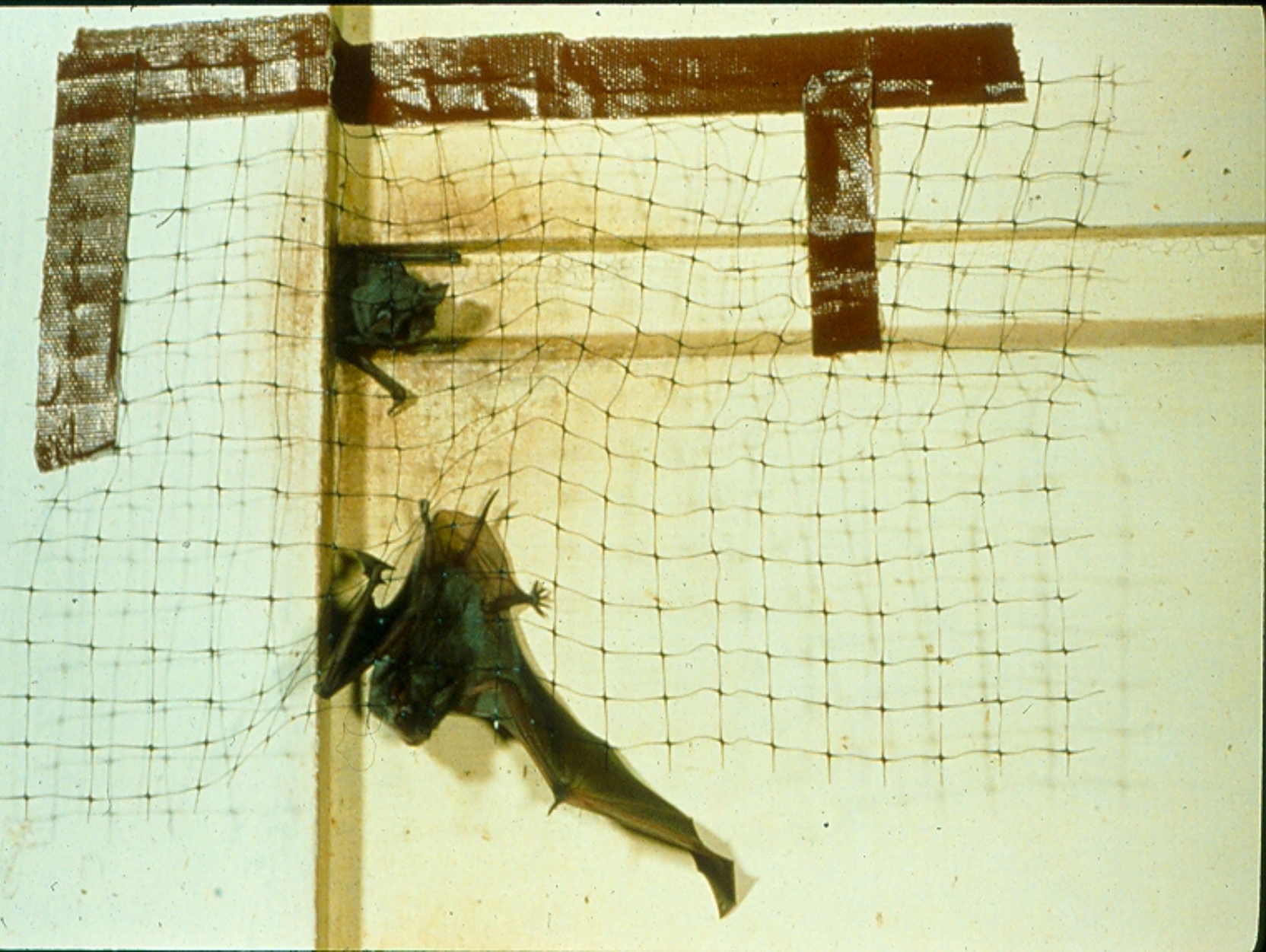
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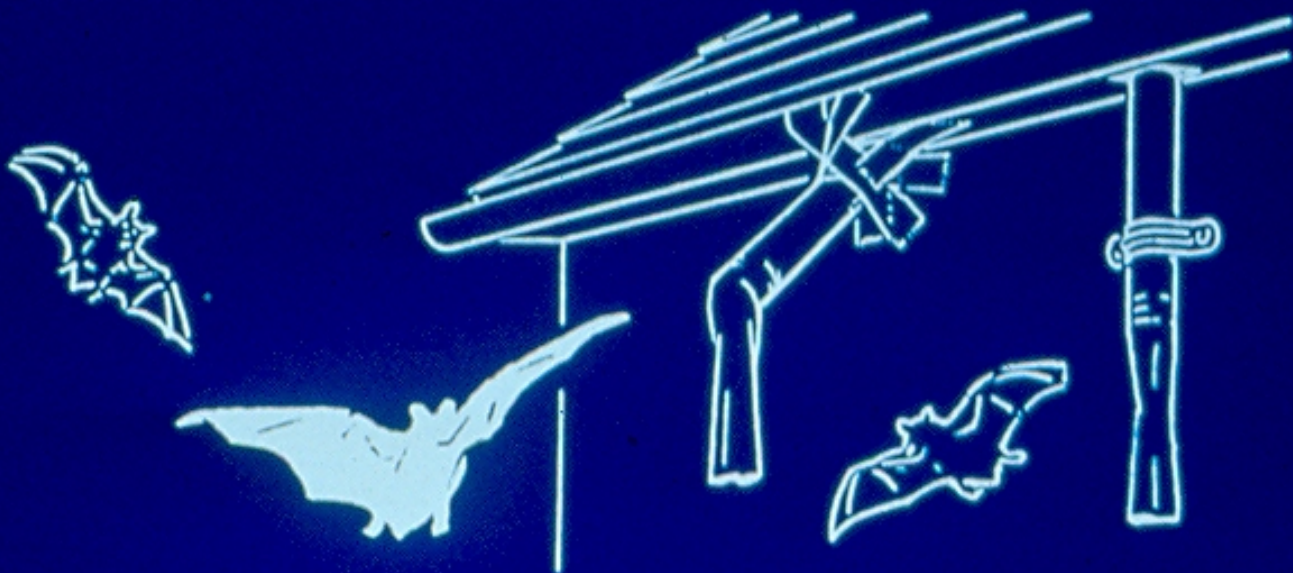




lightweight collapsible tube

tape

rigid tube





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# Bats & Public Health Concerns

**Rabies:** A viral infection of the central nervous system. Once symptoms appear, the disease is almost universally fatal.

- World wide more than 300,000 humans die from rabies each year
- 99% of these deaths are due to contact with rabid dogs
- Like all mammals, a few bats contract rabies. Rabid bats rarely bite except in self-defense if handled

- Bats typically tested by Health Departments are sick and injured specimens. Naturally, frequency is higher in these samples
- No rates above half a percent have been found in unbiased samples
- there is no evidence that rabies from bats has ever triggered an outbreak in other animals

The threat of rabies is virtually nonexistent for anyone who vaccinates all family dogs & cats and does not handle unfamiliar animals.

***Always wear leather gloves if you must handle bats or other wildlife***

**Histoplasmosis:** A respiratory illness caused by the fungus *Histoplasma Capsulatum*. The fungus occurs naturally in the soil in areas that are relatively warm and humid.

- Bird roosts are the most important sources of infection
- The fungus does not normally survive in hot, dry attics
- Persons cleaning up droppings of birds and/or bats should wear respirators that will filter out particles two microns in size
- 99% of all reported human cases come from the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys and adjacent areas

## **Ectoparasites:** Organisms that feed on a host animal

- Bat ectoparasites may include fleas, flies, true bugs, chiggers, ticks and mites
- Most bat parasites are closely associated with one or more bat species, and can not survive on other animals
- There are no known instances of disease transmission to humans from bat parasites
- Parasites that remain after bats have been excluded from buildings soon die without their hosts







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