



BAT PREVENTION

- **Home Inspection**

-Regularly inspect your home for signs of bats, such as bat droppings or sounds of bats. Bats can enter through small spaces like cracks, so look for any possible entry points.

- **Seal cracks and holes**

-Seal any cracks or holes in the building's exterior to prevent bats from entering. Pay close attention to gaps in the siding, loose or missing roof shingles, areas where pipes and wiring enter the house, and spaces around windows and doors.

- **Bat proofing**

-This involves creating one-way exits for bats that are already inside, allowing them to leave but not re-enter. These devices are called bat cones and are most effective when installed by professionals.

- **Chimney caps and window screens**

-Bats often enter homes through chimneys. Keeping your chimney cap maintained and the screens on your windows in good condition can block this common entry point.

- **Tree and bush trimming**

-Trimming the branches of trees or bushes near your home can reduce the accessibility of bats entering your home.

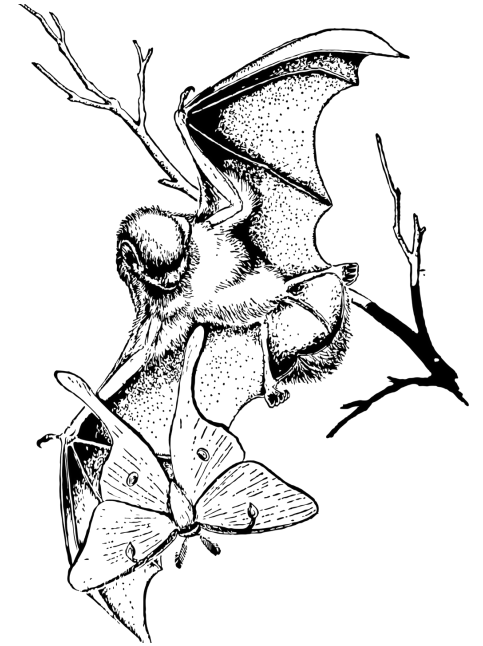


Request Service: (515) 222-3321

General Questions: (515) 222-3364

Pet Licenses: (515) 222-3600

IOWA BATS



**NATURE'S PEST CONTROL
EXPERTS**

Iowa Bats



Eastern red bat



Silver-haired bat

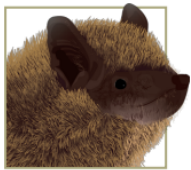


Hoary bat

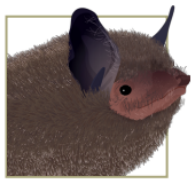


Evening bat

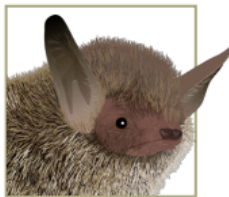
Four species of bats can be found in Iowa (Pictured above) in highest abundance during spring and fall as they pass through on annual migrations between southern wintering areas and northern breeding areas, reaching as far north as Canada's Boreal Forests and Alaska. Some bats also spend summers in Iowa, raising young before migrating south for winter. (Pictured below)



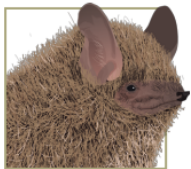
Big brown bat



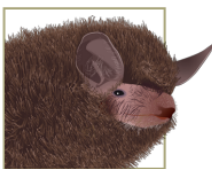
Indiana bat



Northern long-eared bat



Tricolored bat



Little brown bat

Hanging upside down

Bats hang upside down not to be scary, but because it allows them to roost meaning rest, in places where predators can't reach them. It also allows them to get into the air faster by falling to achieve flight.

White Nose Syndrome

White-nose syndrome is a disease currently affecting bat populations in Iowa and several other states. The disease is caused by a fungus, which infects the skin of the bat's muzzle, wings, and ears while they hibernate. This causes them to wake from their hibernation and burn crucial fat reserves, leading to starvation and death. This disease has had a severe impact on bat populations across North America, resulting in the rapid decline of several species.

Bats and rabies

Rabies can spread to people from bats after minor, seemingly unimportant, or unrecognized bites or scratches. If you wake up with a bat in your room, you may have been exposed to rabies and should see your doctor or call your health department, even if you don't feel a bite. Bat bites can be very small so a person might not always know when they have been bitten by a bat.

Testing a bat

If you or someone in your home has potentially been exposed to a bat, the bat should be safely captured (if possible) and you should immediately contact your local health department. Bat may be needed for testing (see information below)

Iowa State University

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Phone: (515)-294-1950

There is a charge for rabies testing at ISU VDL; please note if human exposure has occurred to ensure prompt testing



BAT FACTS

- Bats have relatively long lifespans for creatures their size. Many species in Iowa, such as the little brown bat, can live up to 30 years or more in the wild.
- Bats use echolocation to navigate and find their prey in the dark. They emit high frequency sounds, which bounce back to them after hitting an object. They can identify the object based on the echo they receive.
- Bats in Iowa are insectivorous, which means they eat insects. A single bat can eat up to 1,000 to 2,000 mosquitoes and other bugs in an hour, making them a crucial part of pest control.



- Most bats in Iowa give birth to one pup per year, usually in late spring or early summer. For several weeks after birth, the pups are dependent on their mothers. They are usually able to fly and hunt on their own by mid-summer.

Coexisting

Bats play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems worldwide, acting as pollinators, seed dispersers, and natural pest control agents, making them a vital component of biodiversity and a key ally in promoting a healthy environment.