

ANIMAL NEWS

SPOTLIGHT ON BIG BROWN BATS

By Aiden Gick, Education Intern

The big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) is a nocturnal insectivore that eats bugs that feed on crops, such as scarabs, moths, wasps, and flying ants. They are found all over North America. Big brown bats are social animals that enjoy being in groups and often hide in trees, under bark, and in buildings.

Although the big brown bat population is not of concern because their population is increasing, it is still important to be mindful of their habitats. Avoid lifting up random pieces of bark and try not to use pesticides, as these can be harmful to them and the bugs they eat due to the toxins. Big brown bats are helpful to farmers and gardeners because they eat the bugs that destroy their crops.

Bats can carry viruses that can be super dangerous or lethal towards humans. Even though bats carry diseases, wildlife biologists are working hard to find out why they have diseases and help to prevent them. Despite common fears, big brown bats are not aggressive. However, you should not attempt to handle one without proper protection and training. They can bite if they feel threatened or if you hold them incorrectly, so don't try unless you have experience.

I love bats because they are adorable, misunderstood creatures. Although some species of bats may have scrunched faces that make them look diseased, they are gentle creatures that deserve our protection.

ANIMAL BIRTHDAYS



Clem the spotted turtle turns 6 on August 10

Wanda the Cuban tree frog turns 9 on August 4



Bean the box turtle turns 4 on August 16