



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bats are the only true flying mammal. Bats give birth to live young that suckle milk from their mom. Pups learn to fly when they are 4 to 6 weeks old.

See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bats are mammals of the order Chiroptera which literally means “hand-wing” (they are not rodents). With their forelimbs adapted as wings, bats are the only mammals capable of true and sustained, flapping flight.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bats are not blind! They have very good vision but prefer low lights over bright ones! However navigation is done primarily using echolocation where bats essentially “see with sound”.

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Bats navigate the night skies using echolocation. Just as the word implies, they locate objects in space by listening for rebounding echoes of their very loud, high frequency calls. Humans can't hear bats (but dogs and cats can)!

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bats are long-lived mammals (with one Alberta bat surviving 39 years)! Most Alberta bats give birth to just one pup per female per summer, but only about half of those pups survive their first winter. Bat populations grow slowly - making them a conservation concern.

See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Alberta bats can live a long time. In Canada there are records of Big Brown Bats surviving to at least 19 years and Little Brown Myotis to more than 39 years.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Most Alberta bats give birth to just one pup per female per year. Bat pups are huge compared to their mother's body weight. At birth, they range from 25-30% of their mother's mass. Just imagine a 150 lb woman giving birth to a 50 lb baby!

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Alberta bats use caves, mines and rock crevices (esp in the Badlands) for winter hibernation. In summer, bats roost in big mature trees, large dead trees, crevices in rock cliffs, badlands, mudstone areas of riverbanks, buildings like barns, log houses, sheds, and a few use bat boxes.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bat maternity roosts are composed of mothers and their pups. Female offspring will return to their home roost, year after year, creating groups of related females. The males do not help with the rearing of the young and roost separately.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

All bats in Canada eat insects (and other arthropods). Bats consume large amounts of nocturnal flying insects that can include mosquitoes, forest pests, and agricultural pests. Our bat diet study found that they ate 23 different species of mosquitoes!

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A nursing mother bat can eat more than her own weight in insects in a night just to keep up with the energy demand!

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

There are no fruit bats in Canada. All bats in Canada eat insects (and some eat spiders)! Bats are ecologically and economically important because they eat so many bugs. They work for free but their work across North America is valued in billions of dollars each year!

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All bats in Alberta are protected under the Alberta Wildlife Act and Regulations that protect bats from being hunted, captured, possessed, killed, transported, and harassed.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Bats love the dark and some are afraid of the light. Turn off outdoor lights at night, or use motion sensors so they are not on all the time.

See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Learn about bats and tell your friends and family about them.
See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Plant native trees! Especially in sites next to bodies of water (such as lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, and ponds). Keep old trees!
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Plant flowers that stay open through the night and attract nocturnal insects that bats will eat.
See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bats can fly fast! We have a record of a Silver-haired Bat in western Canada flying at 40km/hr!
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Alberta bats eat insects. Avoid using insecticides. Eat fruits and vegetables grown in farms that don't use pesticides. Go organic!
See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Help restore wetlands, riparian areas along waterways, and other natural areas. These are important foraging spaces for bats.
See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: If you have a backyard pool or artificial pond, make sure you provide grippy escape ramps for bats and other creatures that sometimes fall in.
See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Save tall, large trees. Big trees are important for bats to roost in (they use holes, crevices and spaces under peeling bark).

See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Keep damaged and dead trees as wildlife trees when safe to do so. They are important for bats to roost in.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Do not use sticky tape or fly traps where bats could encounter them. They'll get stuck to them like flies do.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Store empty buckets and bins upside down to avoid entrapment of bats.

See www.albertabats.ca for more bat facts!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Keep cats indoors as they are a main predator of urban and rural cats. Use a catio, leash-train your cat or supervise their outside time!

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Pull invasive weed species, especially weeds like burdock that can entangle bats in sticky burrs.

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Be Bat Friendly: Plant trees, shrubs and plants that are native to your area. These will provide host plants for native insects and they will also use less water than ornamental plants.

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