

# Living With Wildlife: BATS



*Note: Bats are incredibly beneficial to have around. They consume vast quantities of night-flying insects such as moths, beetles, mosquitos, termites and flies. Many concerns about bats stem from misconceptions.*

## ISSUE - RABIES

- Only one bat has been reported carrying rabies in San Juan County (2023).
- Even in areas where rabies occurs in bats, it is found only in a small percentage of the population and is almost always transmitted to humans by a bite — not simply by being in the vicinity of bats. Cats or dogs may also contract rabies if they consume an infected bat.
- Bats are likely to bite only if handled.



## ISSUE - BATS LIVING IN THE ATTIC

Suggestions:

- Consider allowing the bats to stay. Unlike rodents, they do not cause damage by gnawing, and their droppings mainly consist of dried insect parts, which are less smelly compared to mouse droppings. Many people have had bats living in their house for years without noticing!
- Hang up bat boxes in the area as an alternative for bats seeking shelter.
- Ensure there are bats in the attic - not other animals. Bats emit squeaks, click, and quiet chatter. If scratches and thumps are heard, another type of animal is in the attic.
- Humanely exclude bats. Avoid doing this during breeding season (mid-May to mid-August). Youngsters in the roost would die if mothers were excluded.

## RESOURCES

*(Click below for more details)*

[Designs for Bat Boxes](#)

[Bats in Homes & Buildings](#)

[Bat Exclusion Device](#)

[Bat Repellents](#)

[Living and Landscaping with BATS in the San Juan Islands](#)