<table>
<thead>
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<th>Bat Myths</th>
<th>Bat Facts</th>
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| All bats carry rabies. | **Less than one percent of bats carry rabies.**  
  - You cannot get rabies from being in the same room as a bat  
  - If you are bitten by a rabid bat or other animal (raccoons are the most common rabies vector in DE), you can be easily treated if medicine is administered soon after exposure.  
  - Concerns about rabies should be directed immediately to the rabies hotline. |
| Bat droppings (guano) are poisonous to me or my children. | **Bat guano is a valued fertilizer. A specific fungus can grow on bat guano, which if disturbed and inhaled can cause “histoplasmosis.”**  
  - Histoplasmosis exposure is preventable, use a face respirator in areas with large amounts of guano.  
  - Histoplasmosis occurs naturally in the environment, bat droppings are one of many ways to be exposed to the spores.  
  - More information in our Bats and Health Concerns fact sheet. |
| Bats... | **Bats have a sophisticated echolocation system they use to hunt tiny insects and avoid collision.**  
  - Bats can see you, they have good vision.  
  - Using echolocation, bats can avoid a strand of fishing line with no trouble.  
  - Bats eat insects like mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are attracted to people, so occasionally bats hunt around people.  
  - Bats do not attack, but will use their teeth to defend themselves if cornered or grounded. |
| ...get tangled in people’s hair.  
...swoop and attack me when I’m in the pool.  
...are aggressive and try to bite people. | **Bats groom themselves frequently and keep their fur very clean. There are a few specially adapted parasites sometimes found on bats.**  
  - Bat bugs are a cousin of bed bugs and are occasionally found on bats. |
| Bats are dirty and covered in lice. | **NO! There is no need to kill bats that accidentally get into buildings.**  
  - Never strike, spray or whack a bat.  
  - Bats to be submitted for rabies testing should not be released.  
  - Bats in buildings should be isolated to one room, windows or doors to the outside opened, and lights turned on until the bat finds its way back outside. |
| Someone told me to kill a bat with a tennis racket because they can’t see it coming. |  |