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WILDLIFE SERIES
NO. 4

Bats

Shy night neighbours that eat insects and plant forests.

1. **Leave roosting bats be**
   They move on in time. Keep 3 m.
2. **Never touch a bat**
   Any bat bites if picked up.
3. **Bat indoors? Lights and fans off**
   Open windows. Take pets out.
4. **Call or WhatsApp ESC**
   If it's grounded, hurt or won't leave.

Bat indoors?
Lights and fans off, windows open, inner doors shut. Let it find its way out.

Never touch, trap or seal in a bat.

Bitten? See a doctor today.

CALL OR WHATSAPP
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GET TO KNOW THEM

Bats around us

25 or so kinds of bat live here: about 5 fruit bats and 20 insect bats.



Illustration: fruit bats under a leaf



Illustration: insect bats in roof gaps

Why do they come to our homes?

Fruit
Fruiting trees and flowers.

Insects
Moths and beetles at lights.

Shelter
Palms, eaves and roof gaps.

Night flights
They can stray in at dusk.

The night shift
They eat insects, pollinate durian and spread seeds.

DANGER LEVELS

How dangerous is it?

Each animal gets a danger level and a safe distance. Photos are illustrations.

Harmless	Give space	Keep clear	Dangerous
Leave it be	3 m	5 m	10 m or more

Give space
Bites only if handled. 3 m.


Dog-faced fruit bat


Cave nectar bat


Yellow house bat


Tomb bat

Fruit bats

- Dog-like face, big eyes
- Eat fruit and nectar
- Leave fruit scraps

Insect bats

- Small, most with tiny eyes
- Zigzag flight at dusk
- Leave crumbly droppings

Why 3 m?

Bats don't attack people. They bite only if grabbed. Keep 3 m from any bat.

Never touch a bat.
Any bat bites if picked up. Call ESC.

STAY CALM

Bat indoors? What to do

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Bat flying indoors

1. **Lights and fans off.**
2. **Open the windows.** Close doors to other rooms.
3. **Take children and pets out.**
4. **Give it time.** Won't leave? Call ESC.

Bat on the ground

1. **Don't pick it up,** even with a cloth.
2. **Keep people and pets 3 m away.**
3. **Watch where it is.**
4. **Call or WhatsApp ESC.**

3 m three big steps

Never touch a bat

Never

- ✕ Touch or pick up a bat
- ✕ Swat it or chase it with a broom
- ✕ Trap it inside or block its way out

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Bats roosting at home

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Signs of a roost

Droppings under one spot, fruit scraps, squeaking at dusk.

Palm, eaves or porch

- ✓ Leave them be. Most move on when the fruit season ends
- ✓ Put newspaper below for droppings
- ✓ Keep pets away

Roof or wall gap

- ✓ Have it checked before sealing
- ✓ Seal only after the bats leave
- ✗ Don't seal bats or their young inside

Bats are wildlife.

It is an offence to kill, trap or keep them.

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Bat droppings

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Whose droppings?

Insect bat	Dry; crumbles to powder
Fruit bat	Fruit scraps and juice stains
Bird	Wet and pasty, with white
Gecko	Small, with a white tip

Cleaning up

1. **Wear gloves and a mask** (N95).
2. **Spray with water first,** so no dust rises.
3. **Wipe up,** bag and bin.
4. **Wash the area** and your hands.

Never

- ✕ Dry-sweep or vacuum droppings
- ✕ Clean a big build-up yourself

Dust from big, dry piles can harm the lungs.

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Fruit and nectar bats



GIVE SPACE

Lesser dog-faced fruit bat

Cynopterus brachyotis

Danger Bites if handled
Size Palm-sized, 20 to 32 g
Where Palms, trees, porches

Spot it: dog-like face, big eyes, white-edged ears and wing bones.

Note: the fruit bat you'll see most.



GIVE SPACE

Cave nectar bat

Eonycteris spelaea

Danger Bites if handled
Size Up to about 60 g
Where Under flyovers near forest

Spot it: grey-brown, long narrow snout, plain dark wings.

Note: pollinates durian. Flies 38 km a night.

Insect bats



GIVE SPACE

Lesser Asiatic yellow house bat

Scotophilus kuhlii

Danger Bites if handled

Size Up to about 22 g

Where Roof spaces and attics

Spot it: brown back, yellowish belly, small round ears.

Note: gets in through gaps under roof tiles.



GIVE SPACE

Black-bearded tomb bat

Taphozous melanopogon

Danger Bites if handled

Size Slim, long narrow wings

Where Walls and rock faces

Spot it: grey-brown, pointed face, big eyes. Males have a dark beard.

Note: clings flat against walls.

Tent-makers and bat facts



ILLUSTRATION: A TENT MADE FROM A FAN PALM LEAF

A bat-built tent

Dog-faced fruit bats chew a big leaf's veins until it folds down like an umbrella, then roost underneath.

True fliers. The only mammals that truly fly.

Not blind. They see, smell, and many use echoes.

One pup at a time, usually.

Tent in your garden?

Enjoy it and leave it be.

FOR THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD

Children, helpers and pets

Children

- Never touch a bat, even a dead one
- Tell an adult straight away

Helpers

- Wet droppings before wiping
- Wear gloves and a mask
- Fans off if a bat comes in

Pets

- Keep cats in at dusk
- Pet caught a bat? Don't touch it. Call ESC



ILLUSTRATION: LIGHTS OFF, WINDOW OPEN, LEAVE THE ROOM

Estate staff

Keep people back from a grounded bat and call ESC.

If someone is bitten

Wash it, see a doctor today

DO

- Wash with soap and running water, 15 minutes or more
- Cover with a clean dressing
- See a doctor today; say it was a bat

DON'T

- Ignore a small bite or scratch
- Try to catch or hit the bat

Bat myths

MYTH **"Bats tangle in hair."** They steer around people.

MYTH **"Bats drink blood."** Not here. Vampire bats live only in the Americas.

MYTH **"Bats here carry rabies."** Singapore has been rabies-free since 1953.

Save us in your phone

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Step back.
Keep watch.
Call ESC.

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Environmental Services & Consultancy Pte Ltd · UEN 202627970C
80 Genting Lane, #04-10, Singapore 349565
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