

Big-Brown Bat

Eptesicus fuscus

Description

The Big-Brown Bat has reddish-brown dorsal fur, lighter brown ventral fur, and distinctive black snout, wing membranes, and ears.

Big brown bats are insectivorous, consuming beetles, flies, caddisflies, and other insects, often foraging around city street lamps. They play a significant role in controlling agricultural pests, with colonies consuming large numbers of beetles, leafhoppers, and other crop-damaging insects annually.

During the fall mating season, pregnant females form maternity colonies, typically build in human-dominated landscapes. Pups are born blind and helpless, growing quickly and fledging at three to five weeks old. The average lifespan is over 6.5 years, with some individuals known to live up to 20 years. Males generally live longer than females.

FUN FACTS

- Despite tolerating cold well, they may awaken briefly to seek warmth or mate.
- Big brown bats hibernate from November and emerge in the spring. They will store fat in their body before hibernation to keep warm.
- They weighing 15–26 g with a body length of 110–130 mm and a wingspan of 32.5–35 cm
- Big-Brown Bats have a total of 32 teeth.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

