

# Information for School Kids on Bats!!

## What do you know about bats?

- 🐼 Bats are not birds, they are mammals. Mammals are animals with hair – female mammals have mammary glands for making milk for their babies.
- 🐼 Bats are helpful in nature. Most eat pesky insects and some pollinate plants.
- 🐼 There are 43 kinds of bats in the United States and Texas has 33 of these kinds!
- 🐼 Texas has the largest known city bat group in Austin and the largest known cave group near San Antonio.
- 🐼 Some bats have rabies.

## Do you know what rabies is?

- 🐼 It's a sickness that affects the brain of mammals.
- 🐼 Rabies makes wild animals act strange, for example, they don't mind being near people or the animal might have trouble walking.
- 🐼 If a bat is sick with rabies, it might not be able to fly and you could find one on the ground.
- 🐼 Wild mammals that have rabies can give this sickness to other animals and people by biting. It can be hard to see bite marks from a bat because their teeth can be very small.
- 🐼 Rabies can make animals and people VERY sick, so sick that the animal dies.
- 🐼 Luckily, there is medicine that can keep people and their pets from getting rabies.

## Do you know what to do if you see a bat?

- 🐼 Don't touch it! Find an adult and show it to them immediately.
- 🐼 If you see a bat at school, tell a teacher right away!

## What mammals, besides bats, are most likely to have rabies in Texas?

- 🐼 Skunks, foxes, bobcats, raccoons and coyotes.
- 🐼 Even cats and dogs sometimes get rabies from wild animals.

## Do you know how to keep your dog, cat, or ferret safe from getting sick with rabies?

- 🐼 Take your pet to your veterinarian every year.
- 🐼 The veterinarian will make sure your dog, cat or ferret is vaccinated for rabies, just like when you go to the doctor to get your shots.
- 🐼 Keep your pet away from wild animals that can have rabies.