

The Common Vampire Bat

K	Animalia
P	Chordata
C	Mammalia
O	Chiroptera
F	Phyllostomidae
G	Desmodus
S	D. rotundus



Common Vampire Bat

Physical Characteristics

- Dark brown fur located on its back, with white-gray fur located on its belly.
- Large pointy ears.
- Leaf shaped nose.
- Have a wingspan that is double their height.
- Babies have tiny thumbs located in the middle of their wings used to latch onto mother's belly.
- Can double their weight after just one feeding.

Life Cycle/Reproduction

- Every mating season there are about 6 females to 1 male common vampire bats that are born.
- Generally, a female bat gets pregnant almost every mating season and produces one offspring in the span of 90 to 120 days.
- This offspring will remain attached to its mother's belly until it can survive on its own which is about 9 months after its birth.
- If a bat becomes orphaned, there are usually many other female bats that are willing to take care of it, unlike many other animals.
- Vampire bats tend to live about 12 years.

Habitat

- Common vampire bats live generally live in Central and South America.
- They prefer to live in colonies, but sometimes occur individually.
- Common vampire bats tend to live in dark and wet areas such as caves or abandoned houses.
- They must be close to their prey and must leave to get food every few days.
- Usually there is the strong odor of ammonia from the pools of their distinctive black droppings that collect on the floor.

Interesting Facts

- Common Vampire bats have thermoreceptors that indicate where blood flows most heavily.
- Their saliva contains draculin, which prevents their prey's blood from clotting.
- They have extremely good hearing, due to their large inferior coliculus, which is used to detect breathing patterns to see if their prey is asleep.
- After two minutes of feeding, the animal begins to expel the fluids.
- It was once believed that the common vampire bat was actually a vampire in disguise.