Rabies is a deadly disease. People get rabies by coming into contact with a mammal like a bat that is infected with the rabies virus.

**Why are bats important?**
- Bats play a big role in pest control by eating harmful insects
- Bats help pollinate plants — including many of our favorite fruits
- Bats help disperse seeds — helping grow trees and other plants
- Bats can even help regrow forests that have been destroyed

**Threats to bats**
- Bat habitats are getting destroyed by human activity like cutting down forests
- White-nose syndrome is a fungal disease that has killed over 5 million bats

**What is rabies?**
Rabies is a deadly disease. People get rabies by coming into contact with a mammal like a bat that is infected with the rabies virus.

**How to stay safe:**
- Do not touch wildlife, including bats
- Make sure your pets have their rabies vaccine up-to-date

**What to do if you come into contact with a bat:**
- Wash any bites or scratches with soap and water
- Seek medical attention immediately

**How are we stopping the spread of rabies?**
- Making sure that pets have their rabies vaccines
- Distributing oral rabies vaccine baits that prevent rabies in many wildlife species
- Educating the public about the disease
- Using a one health approach allows experts from human & veterinary medicine, and wildlife research to work together