

Vampire Bats

The common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) is one of 3 species of vampire bat. Vampire bats are the only mammals that must feed on blood to survive.

Vampire bats have complex social lives. Female vampire bats form stable grooming and food-sharing relationships with mostly kin, but also non-kin. These cooperative relationships appear important for survival.

Common vampire bats mainly feed on the blood of large mammals, including cows, horses, pigs, and other livestock.

Unlike most other bats, common vampire bats can stand upright — and even run!

Vampire bats often roost in caves, tunnels, or hollow trees that are close to livestock.

