

BATS IN YOUR ATTIC: WHY BATS ARE MUCH SAFER IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT

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The Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC) and Michigan *Critter Catchers* have had a relationship for about a decade. In 2015, the same team started operations in Ohio under the name *Propestmen of Ohio*.

These partnerships are important because it demonstrates the need for private industry and conservation groups to work together for the good of the bat population and people. Bats are important components of the ecosystem, but people should not share their homes with bats.

For people that do share their homes (attic spaces) with bats, they may occasionally experience a lost or confused bat inside their living quarters. When this happens, the bat is at risk of being harmed by indoor cats, dogs, or swinging tennis racquets. Also, when people discover that they woke to a bat flying in their bedroom, the State Health Department recommends that the bat be tested for rabies. This test requires that the bat be destroyed, but is a critical step in preventing spread of this fatal disease to humans. For these reasons, bats are much safer in their

