

PRESS RELEASE

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Zoo launches Bat Cam just in time for Halloween

(Na na na na na na na na na na na na na na...Bat Cam!)

SEATTLE — Holy Bat Cam! Just in time for Halloween, Woodland Park Zoo is introducing the Bat Cam, streaming live from inside the zoo's Indian flying fox exhibit. From dawn through dusk (especially dusk), viewers can tune in to see the colony of six male fruit bats at zoo.org/batcam.



Woodland Park Zoo's live Bat Cam is equipped with night vision, so viewers can check out the bats at all hours. The lights go down in the exhibit at 8 p.m. PST, and the bats become even more active during the night.

Throughout history, bats have been given a bad rap. A well-known idiom, "blind as a bat," claims they have poor vision; some homeowners argue bats are pests; and some people believe that bats are likely to carry disease, such as rabies. These claims are unfair!

Woodland Park Zoo curator, Jenny Pramuk, weighs in to set the record straight. "Bats are an incredible group of mammals but unfortunately, they're misunderstood," said Pramuk. "Without bats, we would be overrun with insects. They're sophisticated navigators—not a single species is blind--natural pest controllers, and they're no more likely than other wild animals to carry disease. Bats are very cool, and a rather beneficial group to us."

Bats are in danger. Their populations are declining across the world. Among their threats in the U.S. are habitat destruction, wind turbine disruption, and a life-threatening fungal disease. Worldwide, bats face threats from humans, including being hunted as a food source and eradication from their cave habitats.

As pollinators and pest controllers, the conservation of bats has a positive impact on the ecological health of our planet. To help protect bats and their habitats, Woodland Park Zoo's Wildlife Survival Fund supports Bat Conservation International by helping to fund projects that integrate research, on-the-ground conservation actions, and education to increase regional interest and investment.

Stay tuned in to zoo.org/batcam to see what Woodland Park Zoo's Indian flying fox colony is up to at all hours of the day.

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