



THE POCKET-SIZED *Pipistrelle Bat*

The common pipistrelle is - as the name tells us - the most common bat we see here in the UK! It's also the smallest. As with all bats, it only comes out at night. So, let's find out a bit more about these marvellous mini mammals.

What do pipistrelle bats look like?

The common pipistrelle has brown fur and black wings. When we said they were mini mammals, we weren't joking - they're so tiny, they can fit into a matchbox!

And they're not just tiny, but very light too. They only weigh about the same as a pound coin.

Can you imagine how light that is for an animal? Place a pound coin in your hand - close your eyes and imagine that weight as if it were a common pipistrelle sitting in your palm!



Where do they live?

Common pipistrelle bats can be found all over the UK, but don't live in Shetland or parts of Orkney. They roost in bat boxes, tree holes, and sometimes even in the roof spaces of houses. They live in small colonies (groups) - other names for a group of bats include a cauldron of bats and a cloud of bats if a large group is flying together!

FUN FACT!

Common pipistrelles often use their tail to catch prey while they're flying.



What do they eat?

They may be miniature in size, but they have big appetites! Common pipistrelles can eat a whopping 3,000 insects every night!! They eat midges, moths and other flying insects and find their food in the dark using echolocation.

Echolocation is something that some animals use to find out where things are. They emit sound waves and listen for the echo. Bats use echolocation to hunt their prey and to prevent them from flying into obstacles in their flight path. Pretty clever, hey?!

Do pipistrelle bats hibernate?

Yes, they do! As with lots of other small mammals, common pipistrelles hibernate over winter, usually settling down for their long sleep from November through until around April. They're fully active again by May.

FUN FACT!

Common pipistrelles can fly at speeds of seven metres per second!

Phew! Super fast!!

