



## Amanda Lollar

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### Summary Statement

Founded Bat World Sanctuary in 1994. Wildlife rehabilitator licensed with the state of Texas specializing in bats, including threatened and endangered species. Author of both popular and scientific literature about bats. Specializing in both frugivorous and insectivorous bat species for 30 years.

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### Achievements

- Created a sanctuary for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of insectivorous bats and the rescue of frugivorous bats from the exotic pet trade, research and retired from zoos.
- Using personal finances, purchased a building in 1992, located in the downtown area of Mineral Wells, TX, in order to protect a wild colony of 30,000 Mexican free-tail bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis Mexicana*) that were slated to be destroyed so the property could be sold. The bats had been using the building as a maternity roost for decades. Over 10,000 orphaned and injured bats were rescued, rehabilitated and returned to their colony over the years, and the colony reached its peak at over 100,000 bats.
- Created the first nutritionally sound diet for convalescing insectivorous bats, allowing bat care specialists to provide proper nutrition to bats that are too frightened or compromised to self feed.
- Conducted the first successful mating behavior study for the *T. brasiliensis* as well as the first behavioral study, showing that the species has at least 25 different vocalizations they use to communicate, laying the groundwork for future studies showing these bats have a rich repertoire of distinct and complex calls that play a major role in social interactions.
- Created a website for bat care professionals to access updated medical treatments and medications for insectivorous bats, free of charge.
- Established a worldwide “Locate a Rescuer” map for the public when finding a bat in need of rescue.
- Presented seminars on the medical care of bats for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association.
- Research includes collaborative work with Bat Conservation International, the California Bat Conservation Fund, The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Boston University, and the Rabies Branch of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Proved that hand-raised, orphaned *T. brasiliensis* and *L. borealis* can be released into the wild and learn to forage for insects on their own.
- Authored *Standards and Medical Management for Captive Insectivorous Bats* and *The Rehabilitation and Captive Care of Insectivorous bats*.

- Authored the initial Bat Standards for the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.
- Commissioned four independent laboratory analyses of two commercial formulas in 2007 after an unprecedented loss of 85% of bat pups being raised on popular commercial milk replacement formulas across the U.S. Results included the presence of heavy metal toxins (including arsenic) and severe inaccuracies in nutrient levels. Secured the help of a PhD Nutritional Scientist to develop the first insectivorous bat-specific milk replacement formula made from human-grade ingredients. The recipe was made available to bat care professionals around the world, free of charge.
- Developed and instructed the first workshops available in the world on the rehabilitation of insectivorous bats. Attendees included animal care professionals from every bat inhabited continent in the world over a 10-year period.
- Secured 13 acres of wild land and built a “bat castle”, the first of its kind man-made structure capable of holding 100,000 bats. In 2023, bats began to inhabit the bat castle. This model will set a precedent to help bats in public areas where they are considered a nuisance, and provide them with safe habitat on land where they are welcome, such as farms, ranches, etc.
- Designed the first of its kind bat exhibit in Las Vegas to demonstrate insectivorous bats can be publicly viewed without creating undue stress to the animals. Bats remain asleep in a simulated natural environment during daylight hours and are on display via infra-red cameras. They are taken off display and placed into a large flight cage each night. Significance: This project was created to help improve the style of exhibit typically utilized for insectivorous bats in various zoos, science and nature centers, where bats seldom survive due to the stress of being placed on public display under bright lights.
- Created guidelines for educational programs using live bats.
- Bat World Sanctuary and the work done by Ms. Lollar have been featured on 20/20, Animal Planet, Nickelodeon, The Disney Channel, the David Letterman Show and the CBS Morning Show.

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## Awards

Recipient of the Doris Day Kindred Spirit Award (2005) and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries Carole Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence (2016). Top ten finalist for the Animal Planet Hero of the Year (2008). Indianapolis Prize Nominee (2009 & 2014).

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## Publications

- The Bat in My Pocket: A Memorable Friendship 1990. Lollar, A. Capra Press, Santa Barbara, CA.
- The Wonder of Bats. 1993. Lollar, A. Biology Digest. 18(6): 72-76v
- Rehabilitation and Captive Care of Mexican Free-tail Bats. 1994. Lollar, A. Bat World Publication, Mineral Wells, TX.
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- Notes on the mating behavior in a captive colony of *Tadarida brasiliensis*. 1995. Lollar, A. *Bat Research News*. 36(1):1
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- Notes on the behavior of a building-dwelling colony of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis Mexicana*) in Mineral Wells, Texas. 2000. Lollar, A. *Bat Research News*. 41(1)
- Communication among Mexican free-tailed bats. 2000. French, B and A. Lollar. *Bats*. 18(2)
- Captive Care and Medical Reference for the Rehabilitation of Insectivorous Bats. 2002. Lollar, A and B.A. Schmidt-French. *Bat World Publication*, Mineral Wells, TX.
- Vocalizations associated with social communication in the Mexican free-tailed bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis Mexicana* (Chiroptera: Molossidae). 2003. French, B; A. Lollar, et al. *Bat World News* 8(1).
- Acoustic mimicry in a predator–prey interaction. 2007. Barber, J.; W.E. Conner, et. al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 104 (22): 9331–9334. doi:10.1073.
- Diagnostic and Treatment Update for the Rehabilitation of Insectivorous Bats. 2007. Lollar, A. *Bat World Publication*, Mineral Wells, TX.
- Rescuing the Orphans. 2008. Lollar, A. *Bat World News*. 14:2
- Chemically-Mediated Roostmate Recognition and Roost Selection by Brazilian Free-Tailed Bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). 2009. Englert, A; M.J. Greene, et al. *PLoS ONE* 4 (11). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0007781.
- Male bats' mating songs could be valuable for research. 2009. Patel, V., et al. *Bryan College Station Eagle* (Bryan- College Station, Texas).
- Standards and Medical Management for Captive Insectivorous Bats. 2010. Lollar, A. *Bat World Publication*, Mineral Wells, TX.
- Standards for Bats in Captivity. 2011. Tomlinson, D., Lollar A. *Bat World Publication*, Mineral Wells, TX.
- Recovery of little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) from natural infection with *Geomyces destructans*, white-nose syndrome. 2011. Meteyer CU, et al. *J Wildl Dis*. 2011 Jul;47(3):618-26
- The Essential Bat. 2012. Rugroden, K., Lollar, A, *Bat World Publication*, Mineral Wells, TX.
- The Rehabilitation and Captive Care of Insectivorous Bats. 2023. *Bat World Publication*. Weatherford, TX.