

Family life



Male greater mouse-eared bats have a harem of up to five females. Greater mouse-eared bats mate in August, but the female's *pregnancy* doesn't start during the winter's sleep – it starts the following spring. Each year in June, the females give birth to a single young in *maternity roosts*, hanging head down from a *beam*. The young are blind and weigh about 6 grams at birth. From the very first moment they hold on to the fur on their mother's belly and start to drink from one of the *teats*.

The maternity roosts contain up to 100 females. When female bats leave to feed, their babies stay in the roost and are looked after by other bat mothers.



The young are fed for six weeks. In August they become independent.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>pregnancy</i> | Tragezeit, Schwangerschaft |
| <i>maternity roost</i> | Wochenstuben |
| <i>beam</i> | Balken |
| <i>teat</i> | Zitze |