

Mosquito Facts:

- 1.) Only the female mosquitoes bite. Males primarily feed on plant nectar.
- 2.) Females must eat blood meals because it is required for the production of their eggs.
- 3.) A mosquito only weighs 1/25,000 of an ounce.
- 4.) Heartworms that your dog can get are caused by mosquitoes. It is important that your dog remains up-to-date on preventative medications because heartworms can cause significant damage to the heart and lungs of your dog.
- 5.) Have you ever noticed how mosquito bites are itchy afterwards? This is because when a mosquito bites, it injects its saliva into your skin to keep your blood from clotting. Mosquitoes have six needles in their proboscis that have different purposes. To watch a video about how mosquitoes are able to feed on humans, click on the link at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD8SmacBUcU&feature=emb_logo
- 6.) There are over 3,000 species of mosquitoes around the world, and Ohio has 59 species of mosquitoes, but only a few transmit disease.
- 7.) Male mosquitoes find females by listening to the wing beats. A female can flap her wings 500 times in a minute, and males can hear the frequency.
- 8.) Bats actually do NOT consume a significant amount of mosquitoes. This is a myth that is commonly believed, but mosquitoes make up less than 1% of a bat's diet.
- 9.) Perfumes, colognes, and lotions can act as an attractant to mosquitoes because they hunt with multiple senses including their sense of smell. Avoid using these products when you plan on going to a location where you anticipate there will be a lot of mosquitoes.
- 10.) Mosquito repellants that contain 10-30% DEET are the most effective to use to prevent mosquitoes from biting.
- 11.) Wearing loose fitting clothing can reduce the likelihood that you will be bitten by a mosquito. Mosquitoes can easily bite you through tight fitting clothing.
- 12.) Some species of mosquitoes (*Aedes spp.*) lay their eggs in floodwater. If mosquito eggs from these species are present when the water dries up, the eggs can remain dormant and hatch when there is enough water and the temperature is right.
- 13.) Some species of mosquitoes have adapted and are now specialized to use containers, such as pop cans, toys that can collect rain water, tarps with standing water, and more to lay their eggs. This is why it is important to clean up any trash in your yard and maintain your property to eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

14.) Mosquitoes are attracted to CO₂ that is expelled when we breathe, and they can detect that smell from several hundred feet away.

15.) Males have a much shorter lifespan than females, and tend to hatch much sooner than females.

For more information and misconceptions about mosquitoes, visit the Vector Disease Control International's website at: <http://www.vdci.net/mosquito-myths-misconceptions-misidentification>

For more mosquito facts and control methods, visit Mosquito World's website at: <http://www.mosquitoworld.net/>

For more information about the Ohio Health Department's "Fight the Bite!" initiative, visit their website at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/resources/mosquito-borne-diseases>

For resources about mosquito and pesticides, visit the Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association's website at: <http://www.ohiomosquito.org/resources.html>

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