

## Batty Facts



- Flying-foxes or fruit bats are essential for our Australian forest health—through distance pollination and seed dispersal they are true forest makers. While everyone sleeps—flying-foxes make forests!
- Flying-foxes can live up to 25 years, weigh up to 1kg, with a 1.2 m wing span and fly at approx. 25km/hr.
- Bats are the only mammal capable of sustained flight
- There are over 1000 species of bats in the world and ninety of these are found in Australia
- Microbats are economically important for eliminating agricultural insect pests and Megabats for their role in pollinating commercial plants such as bananas, dates, figs, mangoes jackfruit, durian, cashews and more.
- Some microbats can consume their own body weight in pest insects in one night e.g. flying termites, cockroaches, lawn grub moths, disease carrying mosquitoes and midges.
- Without microbats our use of chemicals increase which in turn affects human health and economies and can seriously effect whole ecosystems.
- Bats around the world and in Australia are in decline, mostly due to loss of foraging habitat, loss of safe roosts and a poor understanding of their worth
- Bats are placental mammals and have a long gestation period compared to other animals of comparable size. Flying-foxes rarely give birth to more than one young
- Vampire bats are only found in Central and South America, they only weigh 35 gms. Anticoagulant from their saliva may soon be used to treat human heart conditions.
- All bats are protected by law but their survival is not assured.

### Help us preserve them

If you would like to help Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. by becoming a member please visit our web site for membership information. If you would like to make a donation to Bat Conservation & Rescue

## Can you help bats too?

Qld. you can make a direct deposit into our account. Unlike other iconic wildlife we get very little support. These donations are greatly appreciated and help in the recovery of injured and orphaned bats who are our true forest heroes. **All donations \$2.00 and over are fully tax deductible.**



Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. Inc.  
Rescue. Education. Conservation. Habitat

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Illustrations ã Louise Saunders

Rescue Helpline: **0488 228 134**

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## About Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc.

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. is a self-funded volunteer organization whose members are permitted under the Department Environment & Resource Management (DERM) to care for sick, injured and orphaned flying-foxes and microbats. We aim to improve the local environment for our urban bats, by planting trees, giving talks with education animals, being proactive in reducing the risks such as: barbed wire, drape netting and by working with Energex to identify and upgrade power lines to prevent power outages and the many hundreds of deaths of flying-foxes by electrocution.

### Our Mission

- To provide rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned bats.
- To protect and conserve bat colonies and habitat.
- To educate the public about the importance of bats in our environment.

## BATTY BOAT CRUISES

Wildlife Preservation Society, Brisbane Branch run regular Batty Boat Cruises up the Brisbane River to Indooroopilly Island to watch the spectacular flying-fox fly-out over the river. Cruises run regularly between October and March, all monies raised, goes to help bats.

For Bookings Ph: **WPSQ**  
**(07) 3221 0194**



Photo: John Jacob

# Flying-foxes Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. Inc.

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Grey-headed Flying-fox~ Photo by Vivien Jones

**BAT RESCUE HELPLINE:**

**0488228134**



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

## How you can help us

### The major threats to flying-fox survival are:

- Colony disturbance
- Habitat destruction
- Old wiring and narrow spacing of electricity lines
- Non-native plants such as Cocos Palms
- Barbed wire fences planted with native fruiting or flowering plants.
- Lack of action & greater protection under the Nature Conservation Act with illegal shooting and disturbance.

### Your assistance is important!

- Report **all** sightings of flying-foxes alone and in distress
  - Report all electrocutions (including pole numbers)
- ask Energex to prune flowering and fruiting trees growing near powerlines, support underground cabling and aerial bundled cables.
- Reduce barbed-wire fencing across our landscape
  - **Never** use draped mono-filament netting to protect fruit
  - Support Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. by giving a tax deductible donation to assist with caring costs. All food and medications are paid for by the carers themselves.

### Backyard Fruit Tree Protection—alternatives to using netting

The best way to protect backyard fruit trees without harming wildlife, is to use 'Coolaroo' a UV stabilized 15-18% shade cloth. Commercial fruit growers know it as 'Hailguard'. Make sure animals cannot climb up inside, fruit will still ripen, bats and birds do not get caught and it can be stored away until the following season.



Use proper fruit bags from Green Harvest. Cut a flowerpot up the side with a bigger hole in the bottom for the stem, then stretch it over large fruit like a bell. Animals and birds cannot reach under it.

Buy a 'Safenet' for large fig trees [www.fruittreenets.info](http://www.fruittreenets.info)

Incorrectly erected netting kills hundreds of flying-foxes every year in backyards. Hungry nocturnal wildlife do not see dark fine net and become hopelessly entangled in it. Trying to free themselves they suffer cruel injuries such as; ripped wing membranes, broken bones and swollen cut mouths, mostly to mothers and their babies. Flying-foxes are a protected species and must not be harmed.

**NEVER EVER USE NETTING – IT KILLS.**

## Orphan Season

While adults can come into care any-time of the year, orphaned baby flying-foxes usually come into care between October and December if their mothers become entangled in netting, barbed-wire or if electrocuted on power lines. This is the time of year when Grey-headed flying-foxes and Black flying-foxes give birth to a single young, only once per year. If you see a flying-fox on power lines during these months call us as there could be a live baby attached to it's dead electrocuted mother. The baby can survive for up to 4 days until noticed or heard by passers by. Energex assist us by rescuing these orphans from the power lines. Remember to report pole number or the house number and street name.

It is during this time there is also an increase in the number of injured adult females as they search for food to maintain

- Raising an orphaned baby flying-fox or microbat can be a very rewarding experience. Babies are bottle fed milk and require 4 hourly feeds for the first few weeks. Gradually weaned onto fruit and available blossoms they grow quickly and will start to fly at about 10 weeks of age. At this stage carers need to distance themselves to ready their baby bat for release back to the wild.
- Bat babies are constantly attached to their mothers under arm nipple for the first 6 weeks of life. When too heavy to carry their mothers leave them in the crèche at the colony, young are fully dependant on mothers milk until around the age of 10 weeks when they are able to fly. Young non breeding males teach them the ways of the tribe.



*Baby flying-fox drinking milk. Baby flying-foxes bond very quickly to their human mother or father and are very affectionate ~ just like puppies with wings.*

**Misty ~ Baby Grey-headed flying-fox.**



## What to do if you find

### **a bat in trouble!**

SEEK HELP - PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH BATS , if a bat bites you , it will have to be destroyed - do not risk it's life or your health. Only people trained and vaccinated should handle bats.

Any wild animal in pain or frightened is more likely to bite. If found on the ground put a washing basket over it to contain it. Placing a towel over a bat on barbed wire may save it from being attacked by birds. Any other cause please keep away to lessen it's distress. Any bat on its own during the day, on or near the ground is in trouble.

If you see a bat hanging on electricity wires, find one caught on a barbed wired fence, in a fruit tree net or on the ground, contact Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld or RSPCA for advice immediately. Restrain all of your domestic pets and keep children away to minimise stress on the animal.

### **Be humane seek help fast!**

AUSTRALIAN BAT LYSSAVIRUS is rare, not all bats have the virus - less than 0.5% of the entire population of free living bats Australia wide may have the virus at any one time - the virus may be transmitted by a deep bite into nerve tissue or a deep scratch by an infected flying-fox.



**DO NOT TOUCH BATS!**

**If you are bitten or scratched they must die.**

If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for at least 5 minutes. Inform your local doctor as soon as possible. Also please inform the rescuer as the bat will have to be euthanased so it can be tested for ABLV. So please do not try to help sick or injured animals yourself.

HENDRA can only be contracted from Horses. It is still unknown how horses gets Hendra Virus there is still no definitive scientific evidence that it is directly from Flying-foxes.