



# Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD. INC.

RESCUE . EDUCATION . CONSERVATION . HABITAT

## Member By-Laws

### Mission Statement

- To provide rescue, rehabilitation and release for injured bats
- The protection and conservation of bat colonies and their habitat
- To educate the public about the importance of bats.

### Aims

**Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc. is a self-funded volunteer organisation whose aims are:**

- To provide accurate and informative education through literature, community events and talks to the general public about the importance of bats, both megabat and microbat
- To provide an efficient and humane service to rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned bats, and to return them to the wild as soon as possible.
- To be active in the conservation of bats and their habitat
- To meet the standards set out by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in their 'Code of Practice – Care of sick, injured or orphaned protected animals in Queensland.
- To operate as a no-for-profit voluntary organisation.

### General

1. BCRQ is licenced under the Nature Conservation Act to undertake its work with bats but that licence can be removed if BCRQ or its members don't comply with the Code of Practice
2. BCRQ's permit is for the Rescue and Rehabilitation of Sick, Injured and Orphaned Wildlife only. It does not allow members to relocate wildlife for any purpose. A common scenario where people are asked to intervene is the removal and relocation of microbats.
3. The Code of Practice contains minimum standards (as well as Best Practice Guidelines) that must be adhered to by all members. The standards cover these areas
  - a. Vaccination against ABLV
  - b. Provision of veterinary care
  - c. Rescue and handling
  - d. Transportation
  - e. Housing
  - f. Food and water
  - g. Euthanasia
  - h. Release of animals
  - i. Release site and timing

- j. Records
  - k. Wildlife rehabilitation organisations
  - l. The Code also lays out what an organisation must do if it becomes aware that a member is not complying with the code.
4. All Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld (BCRQ) active carers and rescuers must be rabies vaccinated in accordance with DERM Guidelines: **“All persons caring for flying foxes and insectivorous bats must be vaccinated against Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABL) and must regularly consult their General Practitioner or Public Health Unit to maintain vaccinations.** “The permit holder (BCRQ Member) must restrict access to flying foxes or micro-bats in care by unvaccinated family members and friends.
  5. Newly vaccinated members must have their titre levels checked two weeks after initial vaccination and then each year to ensure adequate cover has been maintained, then under the guidance of their Medical Practitioner.
  6. Rescue members will provide the secretary of BCRQ a doctor’s letter stating the member has appropriate levels to remain an active rescue member. The Membership Secretary will send titre level reminder notifications with Membership Renewals each year.
  7. If the Management Committee is not satisfied that a member is up to date with vaccinations/training and/or capable of performing a rescue and assessment of animals, or that their facilities are deemed inappropriate, that member may be removed from the active member rescue list, until the Management Committee is satisfied.
  8. Active members are those involved in rescue, raising and rehabilitation of bats. Associate/Support members are not to handle bats and are not required to be vaccinated.
  9. All carers are required to attend an orphan training day each year
  10. All rescuers are required to attend a rescue training day held each year.
  11. All microbat carers are required to attend a microbat training day each year
  12. Phone training will be supplied to phone coordinators
  13. Any members who are members of another wildlife organisation must nominate which organisation they will rescue, rear and release, injured or orphaned bats. This is to ensure that BCRQs standards for rearing and rehabilitation are maintained.
    - a. If the member does not choose BCRQ, or if the member is rehabilitating bats for other organisations, then their membership of BCRQ will be restricted to the Associate/support category.
  14. If a BCRQ member fails to notify BCRQ of bats in their care, it will be assumed they are caring under another organisation’s or their own permit. BCRQ takes no responsibility for bats raised under another organisation’s permit or actions by these members regarding the bats in their care. Their membership will then be restricted to associate/support category.
  15. All donations received from the public must be deposited into the BCRQ bank account. Receipts and thankyou’s will be issued as soon as possible after processing.
  16. Membership fees are due on the anniversary payment of membership each year.

## Rescue Records

17. All privately obtained rescue calls for bats (other than BCRQ) must be reported to the bat rescue phone coordinator so all rescues can be recorded. The statistics generated from these reports are used to inform the committee, government and the public to facilitate change. e.g. Netting, alerting Energex to flowering trees through power lines, government environmental guide lines, etc.
18. BCRQ animal record forms must be completed and given with the animal at hand over or within 2 weeks of the animal being released or euthanised. Records must also be completed via the online animals records Data base via our web site. Contact the data coordinator if access to internet is not available. Noncompliance in submitting record forms for a three-month period may result in the carer/rescuer being temporarily removed from the contact list until data has been presented.
19. All Orphans are to be registered on the orphan database. The carer is to record weights and measures and submit them weekly via the database or via the data coordinator or their mentor, it is essential to have weekly contact with the species coordinator and or mentor.

## Carers Responsibilities

20. All carers and rescuers must be prepared to have their equipment/facilities and caring techniques assessed by a mentor/nominated member to assess appropriate standards.
21. All members must abide by the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and *Nature Conservation Regulations 1994* and by-laws of this organisation.
22. Carers must agree to abide by the by-laws of BCRQ
23. All carers must read and understand BCRQ's carer manuals and all amendments. Manuals are available through the members' only site on our web site. A hard copy will be available at training courses
24. Carers are required to attend rescue and orphan workshops every year as a refresher due to information changes so members keep abreast with changes to information, new medications, treatments etc. and to obtain updated manuals.
25. Carers must have the appropriate equipment for the species that they care for i.e. microbat or megabat and be able to offer the appropriate level of care.
26. Full protective equipment including gloves and gauntlets must be worn during all rescues
27. All members must comply with BCRQ's Workplace Health and Safety policy
28. All bats must be assessed at the rescue, so any emergency treatment or euthanasia can be given promptly. Help with assessments can be obtained from the Rehab Coordinator or mentor.
29. BCRQ has one trained carer authorised to perform euthanasia. We encourage rescuers with seriously injured animals to use this carer to help in assessment and euthanasia if required.
30. All public C3 exposures (bat bites or scratches) including bites to members, must be reported to the President of BCRQ immediately,
31. Carers must obtain prior approval of the Management Committee before initiating activities such as funding activities, displays or purchasing merchandise.

## Complaints or Dissatisfaction

32. All members are advised that any complaints or issues causing dissatisfaction by any member of the association must be submitted in writing to the committee and will be raised at the next Management Committee meeting for resolution.
33. When any issue of welfare, harassment, bullying or any dissatisfaction with any member of BCRQ, or anyone else arises, the committee is to be advised directly and followed up with in writing to the committee.
34. With the committee being the only exception, no member is to talk of any issue they have with other members to other members or outside sources. In the event the committee doesn't resolve the issue the relevant outside source should be consulted. e.g. police, EHP, Queensland Health, Bio Security etc.

## Communication

35. Communication with members will be via newsletters, email and our web site.
36. Members are encouraged to attend quarterly general meetings which will be called by the secretary 14 days in advance. Minutes of meetings will be available to members at general meetings and on request.
37. The president is the only authorised spokesperson to speak on behalf of the organisation to media, local or state government officials. Members must seek approval from the president if asked to speak on behalf of the organisation.

## Annual Audit

38. Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. Inc. end of financial year will be April 30th each year.

## Insurance

39. . BCRQ is covered by insurance policies for Personal Accident, Public Liability, and Protector Liability through Queensland Water and Land Carers. Members of BCRQ are covered by these insurance policies, provided their membership is current, they abide by these bylaws, including the Workplace Health and Safety Policy, the Code of Practice and no unlawful activities are involved in an incident leading to a claim.

The Management Committee

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc.

January 2018