



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 mega bat and micro-bat

To provide an efficient and humane service to rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned bats, and returning them to the wild as soon as possible

To be active in the conservation of bats and their habitat

To follow the guide lines set out by DEHP in their '*Code of Practice—Care and rehabilitation of orphaned, sick or injured protected animals by wildlife volunteers*'

To operate as a not-for-profit voluntary organisation.

General

1. All Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc (BCRQ) carers/rescuers must be rabies vaccinated in accordance with DEHP 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".

2. Newly vaccinated members must have their titre levels checked a minimum of two weeks after completion of their vaccination and then on the first anniversary of that test, to ensure adequate cover has been maintained.

From hereon all members with titres levels >4 need to have their titre level checked every two years, <4 need to be checked annually.

Members with Titres levels < 0.5 please seek the guidance of their Medical Practitioner and cease handling bats until appropriate titre levels are obtained (a booster & retesting may be required).

3. Rescue members will provide the Membership Secretary of BCRQ a current copy of the titre test result or doctor's letter stating the member has appropriate levels to remain an active rescue member.



4. 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 rescue contact list until the Management Committee is satisfied the member has remedied the situation.
5. “Active “ (Rescue & Care) members are those directly involved in rescue, raising and rehabilitation of bats under the BCRQ Permit .
“Associate” (Support) members are not directly involved in handling bats and are not required to be vaccinated.
“Associate” (Support) membership also covers those members who are vaccinated but rescue, raise and rehabilitate bats with another group.
6. All Active members intending to care for orphan flying fox pups are required to attend an orphan training day each year.
7. All Active members intending to care for microbats are required to attend a microbat training day each year.
8. All new Active members are required to attend a basic rescue training day and an advanced training day in the first year of membership. All other Active members are required to attend a refresher workshop every two years.
9. Training will be supplied to members wishing to volunteer as phone operators.
10. Any members who hold membership with another wildlife organisation must nominate which organisation they actively represent when rescuing, rearing, rehabbing and releasing injured or orphaned bats. This is according to DEHP guidelines. If a member does not choose BCRQ, or if the member is rehabilitating bats for another organisation, then their membership of BCRQ will be restricted to the Associate (Support) category.
11. If a BCRQ member fails to notify BCRQ of bats in their care it will be assumed they are caring under another organisation's permit. Their membership will then be restricted to Associate (Support) category.
12. All donations received from the public must be receipted and deposited into the BCRQ bank account: Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc BSB 034 070 Account Number 427 443. The Treasurer must be notified of any deposits made with corresponding receipt numbers.
13. The Membership year runs from 1st April to 31 March. Renewal fees are due by the 30th of April each year.
14. Any member wishing to nominate for the position of President must be a financial member of BCRQ for two consecutive years.

Rescue Records

15. 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. i.e. netting or alerting Energex to flowering trees through power lines etc..
16. All Orphans are to be registered so the member can be allocated a Baby Mentor. The member is expected to record weights and measures and submit them weekly to their mentor.



Members Responsibilities

17. All active members must be prepared to have their equipment/facilities and caring techniques assessed by a committee member or a mentor/nominated member to assess appropriate standards.
18. All members must abide by the Code of Practice, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Nature Conservation Act 1992 and subsequent legislation.
19. All members must agree to abide by the by-laws of BCRQ, guidelines and directives made by BCRQ Executive Committee.
20. All active members must read and understand BCRQ's carer manuals and all amendments. Manuals are available through the members' only section of our web site. A hard copy will be available at training courses.
21. Active members are required to attend rescue and orphan workshops, or refresher workshops, every two years to keep abreast with new medications, treatments, information changes etc., and to obtain updated manuals.
22. Active members must have the appropriate equipment for all species, micro-bat and flying fox and be able to offer the appropriate level of care, i.e. rescue/hospital cage, micro-bat facilities, rescue gear including baby bottles and teats even if not caring for babies.
23. Full protective equipment, such as gloves and sleeve protectors, and covered footwear, must be worn during all rescues.
24. A maximum of 4 orphans are to be cared for per household. This limit is set for the well-being of member and the orphans.
25. 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 Microbat Coordinator.

Regarding Euthanasia the DEHP code of practice states:

- a. *'14Euthanasia*
- b. *14.1 Euthanasia of wildlife may be necessary:*
 - a) *To alleviate pain or suffering;*
 - b) *When further treatment is not practical or recovery is not expected such that the animal can be successfully rehabilitated to the wild; or*
 - c) *When there is a reasonable expectation that the animal will not be suitable for return to the wild (unless the species is listed under CITES).*
- c. *14.2 To achieve humane destruction (or 'euthanasia') of an animal the method must 'achieve instant insensibility followed by rapid death of the animal without first regaining sensation or consciousness'.*
- d. *14.3 The preferred method of euthanasia for most species is by intravenous barbiturate overdose.*



- e. *14.4 Euthanasia by intravenous barbiturate overdose MUST be carried out by a registered veterinarian, approved wildlife staff of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, or by persons authorised by the Chief Executive of Queensland Health.'*
26. BCRQ have trained members authorised to perform euthanasia. We encourage rescuers with seriously injured animals to use these members to help in assessment and euthanasia if required.
27. All public C3 exposures (bat bites or scratches) must be reported to the President of BCRQ immediately, including bites to members.
28. Members must obtain prior approval of the Management Committee before initiating activities such as funding activities, displays or purchasing merchandise.

Complaints or Dissatisfaction

29. All members are advised that any complaints or issues causing dissatisfaction by any member of the association must be submitted in writing and will be raised at the next Management Committee meeting for resolution.

Crèche and Release Procedure

30. The crèche site is Logans Run, the release site is determined by BCRQ Committee. Members will use only these sites for crèche and release.
31. All crèche/release site fees must be paid when orphans enter crèche site, if applicable..
32. The total cost of crèche and release will be determined each year and members will be notified of this cost. It is based on the cost of fruit, the amount of funds raised and the number of orphans in care.
33. Release and crèche site officers must report to the Management Committee regularly during orphan bat season.

Communication

34. Communication with members will be via newsletters, email and our web site.
35. Members are welcome to attend bi-monthly general meetings which will be called by the secretary 14 days in advance. The executive meet on a monthly basis. Minutes of meetings will be available to members at general meetings and on request.
36. The president is the only authorised spokespersons 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

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

**The Management Committee
Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc
22nd November 2015**