

About Bat Conservation and Rescue QLD

Bat Conservation and Rescue is a fully self-funded volunteer organisation that helps communities understand the importance of all bat species, to provide a prompt and humane rescue service, to raise orphans and to rehabilitate injured bats before returning them to the wild.



The importance of bats

Do you know that there are 77 different species of bats in Australia and that flying-foxes are classed as a 'keystone species' meaning that we can't do without them?

As nocturnal long-distance pollinators of important forest species, Australian flying-foxes are vital to the health and diversity of our forests via the out-crossing of pollen and through seed dispersal.

The activities of flying-foxes help to regenerate previously cleared land and their ability to disperse seeds ensures forest health and biodiversity.

Microbats are incredibly valuable as they munch their way through tonnes of mosquitoes and agricultural insect pests each night.



Our mission

To rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned bats and, where possible, return them to the wild.

To protect and conserve bat colonies and habitat.

To help people understand the importance of all bat species.

CONTACT US

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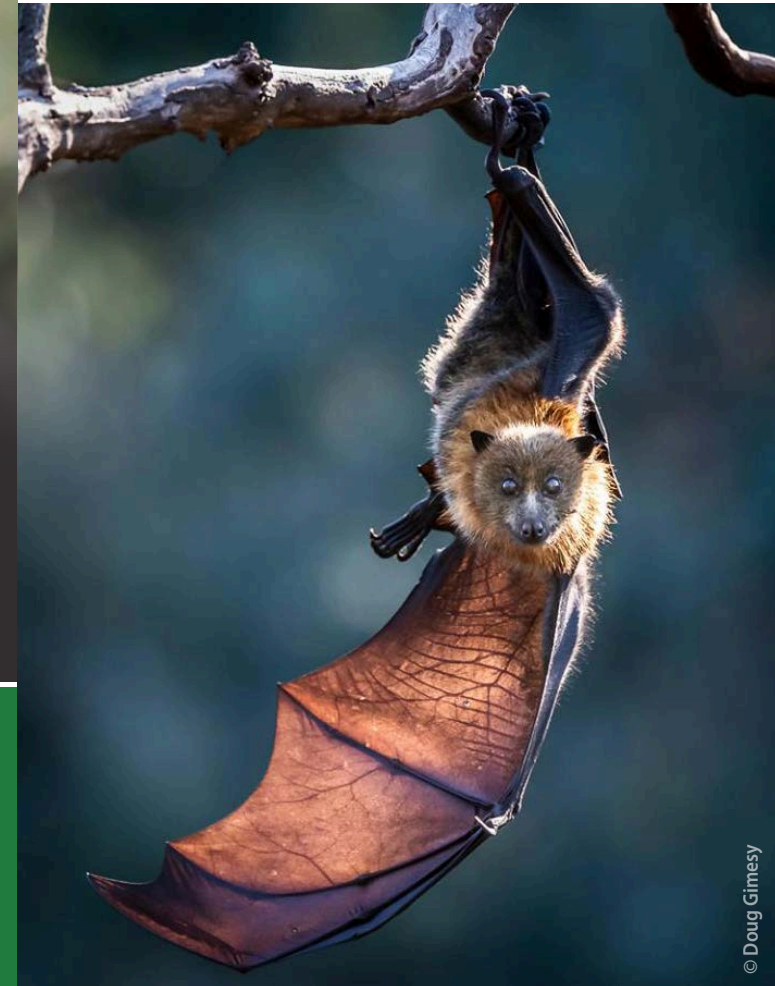
Bank details

Account name: Bat Conservation and Rescue Qld Inc.
BSB: 638260 | Account number: 14788101



Bat Conservation
& Rescue QLD INC.

RESCUE. EDUCATION.
CONSERVATION. HABITAT



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Flying-foxes

Flying-foxes are a keystone species and Australia's only nocturnal, long distance pollinators and seed dispersers of native forests. Flying-foxes roost in the tops of trees in large colonies and they eat pollen, nectar, leaves, bark and a variety of native and cultivated fruit. All four species are in decline with Grey-headed flying-foxes listed as 'Vulnerable' and Spectacled flying-foxes recently upgraded to 'Endangered'.



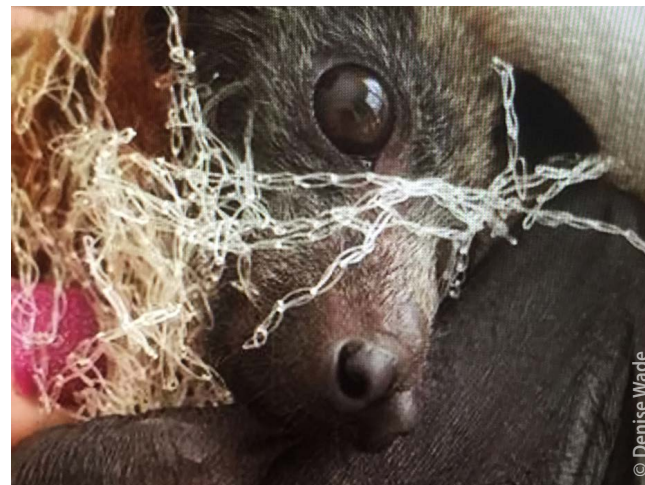
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Microbats

Unlike flying-foxes who use their large forward-facing eyes to find their food, microbats echolocate to detect their insect prey. With most species weighing in between 3 and 30 grams and consuming up to 60% of their body weight in insects every night, microbats roost mainly in tree hollows or under bark but some species live in roof spaces and caves.

Bats in trouble

Any bat by itself through the day is in trouble. Flying-foxes face many hazards including entrapment in large aperture anti-bird netting and on barbed wire fences, being hit by cars, electrocuted on overhead power lines, being attacked by domestic pets, accelerating habitat destruction and colony persecution and they also face increasingly severe and more frequent weather events.



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Orphan season

Following a six-month gestation period, the majority of Black, Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes give birth to a single baby between October and December while Little Red flying-foxes give birth around May each year. Microbats generally give birth during spring and summer and many baby bats are found alone and in need of help. Carers hand raise these orphans and they are eventually released back to the wild. Please call in any flying-fox seen hanging on overhead power lines as there may be a live baby tucked up under a dead mother's wing.



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Bats and human health

Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV)

A very small percentage of Australian bats may carry ABLV. ABLV is potentially fatal but preventable. ABLV can be transmitted by being scratched or bitten. As confirmed by Workplace Health and Safety Qld: *"Contact with bat faeces, urine and blood is not considered to be a risk for ABLV exposure."* **So no touch, no risk.**

If you are scratched or bitten by any bat, please seek urgent medical attention.

Hendra virus

Flying-foxes are the natural host of hendra virus, which can be fatal for horses. Humans can only contract Hendra from a sick horse.

There are no other known risks of living near Australian flying-foxes or having them visit your garden.

What to do if you find a bat

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH.

Call us on

0488 228 134



How you can help

- Plant bat friendly feed trees.
- Keep your pets inside at night.
- Never use any large aperture fruit tree netting that you can poke a finger through.
- Remove or minimise the use of barbed wire fencing.
- Never plant flowering or fruiting shrubs or trees near barbed wire fences.
- Report any bat by itself through the day including bats on overhead power lines.

Why not think about becoming a member?

Active members who handle bats require a course of 3 rabies vaccinations. Associate members can help by attending community events that educate the public and disseminate the truth about the importance of bats. You can also help BCRQ by giving a tax-deductible donation to assist with caring costs.