

# Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD Inc



## HOW TO MAKE A BAT FEEDING STATION

### WORDS OF WARNING

NEVER touch or approach any bat especially if it is on the ground or low in a tree or shrub.

Any bat by itself through the day is in trouble. Please call BCRQ on 0488 228 134 urgently.

Please note that it is important that feeding stations are only used during times of food shortages and starvation events. To use them outside of these periods could result in bats becoming dependant on these food stations. Please follow Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld on Facebook or Instagram to know when bats are requiring support.

### HOW TO BUILD A FOOD STATION

1. Chop fruit up into pieces approximately 3cm x 3cm. Appropriate fruit to use are apple, pear, banana, mango, watermelon, honey dew and rockmelon. Place the chopped fruit into a bucket or basket with small holes in the bottom. This ensures adequate drainage should it rain. *Please note: fruit should be cut up so that younger bats can fly in, grab a piece and fly off to a safe tree to eat. Hanging large whole fruit can result in one bat claiming possession of the food station and not allowing others to feed.*
2. Hang the fruit bucket and a bucket of clean water at least 2 metres high in the tree. Ensure you place it below a branch so bats can hang upside down from the branch enabling them to reach into the bucket and grab a piece of fruit. The use of a rope and pulley system makes changing the fruit each night easier.
3. Possums are opportunistic animals and will also appreciate a free feed. If you do not wish to feed possums, place the fruit bucket in a lone tree where possums cannot access the tree via the branches of another tree. Then wrap the base of the tree in a metal sheet. This will provide a slippery surface which the possums will not be able to climb.

