



BY-LAWS

Rev. 17/2021

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Categories

1.
 - a. Members who reside within the Sunshine Coast region are classified as ORDINARY members and have voting rights. They are also eligible for nomination to the Management Committee - except if they are Active members of another wildlife group that also cares for bats.
 - b. Members from other districts are classified as ASSOCIATE members and are not eligible to be nominated to the Management Committee, nor do they have voting rights. Founding members are exempt from this rule.
2. Within each membership class there are two types of members:
 - a. **ACTIVE** members are those involved in rescue, raising and rehabilitation of bats.
 - b. **SUPPORT** members are not directly involved in handling bats and are not required to be vaccinated.
3. If you are a member of another wildlife organization, or subsequently become a member of another wildlife organization, you must nominate under which organisation's permit you will rescue, rear and release sick, injured or orphaned bats. This is to ensure that Bat Rescue's internal guidelines and standards for rearing and rehabilitation are maintained.

The aim of Bat Rescue Inc. is co-operation with other wildlife groups in SEQ and avoiding any conflict over such things as crèche and release issues that arise due to carers being permitted to care for bats under two or more group permits. If you do not choose to nominate Bat Rescue Inc., or you are rehabilitating bats for other organizations, your membership of Bat Rescue will be restricted to the SUPPORT category.

NOTE: This rule also applies to vaccinated family members within the same household. If they are also bat carers, then they must also be actively caring for Bat Rescue only.

Membership Fees

4. The membership fee for an Active member is **\$20.00** and for a Support member is **\$15.00**.
5. No membership fee will be waived unless approved by the Management Committee.
6. All fees will be due by 30th June.
7. Membership fees will be reviewed at each Annual General Meeting.

Membership Acceptance

8. All new/renewing members must be nominated/endorsed by a member of the Management Committee and be seconded by a member of the Management Committee. Confirmation of new membership is subject to the satisfactory completion of a 12 month probationary period. The Management Committee reserves the right to terminate new members within this period.

CARERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

9. All Bat Rescue carers/rescuers must be rabies vaccinated and provide the Bat Rescue Management Committee with proof of vaccination. Proof being their antibody levels must be 0.5 I/mL or greater.

10. All ACTIVE members will be required to have their antibody levels checked every one or two years, depending on individual antibody level. The Bat Rescue Inc. Management Committee will arrange this for ACTIVE members.
11. All new carers are required to attend the New Carers Training Day held annually. New members who are experienced carers must also attend the New Carers Training Session to familiarize themselves with the methods used by the group.
12. Carers must be prepared to have their facilities inspected and/or caring techniques monitored by an experienced bat carer nominated by Bat Rescue Inc. In most cases this will be the Care Co-Ordinator or mentor assigned to the carer.
13. All members must abide by the *Code of Practice, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Nature Conservation Act 1992* and *Nature Conservation Regulations 1994* and By-laws of this organisation.
14. Carers are required to attend an orphan training course before they can raise an orphan and they must attend a Rehabilitation & Rescue Workshop before they are sent out on a rescue. Refresher courses will also be offered, but carers are expected to attend a refresher on Rehab and Rescue at least two yearly.
15. Carers must agree to abide by the guidelines and decisions made by Bat Rescue Inc.
16. Carers must have the appropriate equipment for the specific type of bat and level of care they wish to offer i.e. rehabilitation cage, microbat facilities.
17. Protective equipment must be worn during all rescues e.g. gloves.
18. Carers must obtain prior approval of the Management Committee before initiating activities such as funding activities, displays or purchasing merchandise.

Rescue Contact Lists

19. New carers/rescuers will only be placed on the Bat Vaccinated Contact Lists after:
 - a) endorsement by a Management Committee member
 - b) after completing one bat season working with an experienced bat carer/rescuer, and
 - c) having undergone a rescue workshop or on the job training with an experienced rescuer.
20. Membership must be current to remain on the contact list.
21. If the Management Committee is not satisfied that a member is up to date with vaccinations and/or capable of performing a rescue, that member may be removed from the contact list until the Committee is satisfied.

Rescue Records

22. All Bat Rescue records are done online via the website. If a carer does not have access to the internet they must make arrangements with the Care Co-Ordinator or other member to enter records on their behalf. Records should be entered within 72 hours of receipt of the animal.
23. All Orphaned Flying-Fox growth histories must be completed prior to the time of crèche/release. The Online Records Manual contains the latest instructions on completing records.
24. All orphans are to be registered by entering them in the online records system as soon as the details are obtained by the carer, or the details must be given to the Care Co-Ordinator. Failure to do so could result

in a member having to pay full crèche fees due to their orphan(s) not being registered and therefore not being included in our fee subsidy calculations.

CRECHE & RELEASE FEES

25. Bat Rescue Inc. strives to raise funds throughout the year to cover the costs of crèche and release, however this is not always achievable to fully subsidise the cost. If carers are required to meet some of this cost, all crèche/release site fees must be paid either prior to crèche/release or on the day.
26. The total cost of crèche and release will be determined each year and members will be notified. It is based on the cost of fruit, the amount of funds raised and the number of orphans in care.
27. To be eligible for crèche and release subsidies new active members must join on or before the date of the AGM of the year they are joining and have their orphans registered. They must also make some contribution throughout the year by attending a fundraising event, working bee, or some other in-kind support.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

28. Members are required to check in with their mentor or Co-Ordinator on a regular basis during the time orphans are in their care. This is to ensure that any problems are attended to promptly and that the bats are on track for creche and release.
29. The email address admin@batrescue.org.au may be used by any members wishing to raise matters with the Management Committee.
30. Communications containing personal attacks, or that could be deemed offensive, are considered by the organization as being inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour.
31. Carers are required to consult with their mentor or Co-Ordinator relating to the care, treatment, release or other fate of bats in their care.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

32. Potential grant opportunities identified by members should be forwarded to the Management Committee for consideration.

COMPLAINTS OR DISSATISFACTION

33. All members are advised that any complaints or issues causing dissatisfaction by any member of the Association can be submitted in writing to admin@batrescue.org.au and will be raised at the next Management Committee meeting for resolution.