



How to Help

- Report all sightings of bats in distress to your local wildlife group or RSPCA
- Report all wildlife electrocuted on powerlines
- Ask your local electricity company to prune large flowering native trees growing near cables
- Net fruit trees correctly, or use alternative wildlife friendly crop protection methods
- Remove Cocos Palms and their seeds and replace with Bangalow or Alexander Palms, or other flying-fox friendly native trees
- Install a microbat box in a backyard tree to create an artificial roost
- Keep domestic pets indoors at night
- Trees should be kept well trimmed to ensure overhanging branches are not within reach of dogs
- Reduce barbed wire fencing, and use wildlife friendly fencing methods instead.

Cat & Dog Attacks

Many suburban rescues involve bat encounters with cats and dogs.

Due to their small size, microbats are often victims of domestic cat attacks and invariably do not survive.

Each year a large number of flying-foxes are killed or severely injured by domestic dogs. Dogs may be bitten or scratched and require veterinary attention and post-exposure vaccination.

Keep your pets inside at night, or in an area away from low hanging fruiting and flowering trees or shrubs. This allows flying-foxes, and other nocturnal wildlife, to feed in safety and protects your pets from injury.

Disease Risks

Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) can only be transmitted by a bite or scratch from an infected bat. While the risk is very low, it is assumed that any bat can potentially carry the virus.

Public health advice is that unvaccinated people should not handle any bats, and all bites or scratches must be reported to Queensland Health. An effective post-exposure treatment is available.

There is no risk of transmission from bats flying overhead, flying-fox droppings, or from feeding or roosting in gardens.



Found a Bat?

SEEK HELP - PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH

Any wild animal in pain or frightened may struggle or try to bite if handled incorrectly. Keep children and pets away and contact your local wildlife rescue organisation for assistance.

BAT RESCUE INC. 24 HOUR HOTLINES:

Sunshine Coast (via WILVOS)	Ph. 07 5441 6200
Ipswich	Ph. 07 3062 6730
RSPCA (1300 ANIMAL)	Ph. 1300 264 625

Bat Rescue Inc.



www.batrescue.org.au

P.O. Box 4625 Sunshine Coast MC 4560



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Backyard Hazards

Why bats are important

FLYING-FOXES are a keystone species. Without their seed dispersal and pollination services, our forests would suffer loss of biodiversity.

MICROBATS are small mainly insectivorous bats. They can consume thousands of insects every night, including moths and mosquitoes.

All bats in Australia are native and protected by law.

This publication outlines some of the most common causes of injury and death to bats in South East Queensland.

HELP AND PROTECT BATS BY TAKING ACTION IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD.

Entanglement

BARBED WIRE entanglements can occur where there is a nearby flowering or fruiting tree. The wire is invisible at night and many nocturnal animals suffer cruel and painful deaths. Visible markers such as white polystyrene cable-tied to the top strand can be used. Replacing the top strand with plain wire is another way of reducing the hazard.

FRUIT TREE NETTING that you can poke your finger through is a hazard for bats (and birds). Wildlife friendly fruit netting is available.

For more information, visit:
www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com



Cocos or Queen Palms

When natural food sources are scarce, flying-foxes will eat the seeds of the Cocos Palm. This South American palm is now widely regarded as invasive due to its harmful effect on bushland and many species of wildlife. Through their seed dispersal activities, flying-foxes contribute to the spread of Cocos Palms into parks and bushland which creates an ongoing issue for Councils.



Cocos Palms can affect flying-foxes as follows:

- By poisoning when seeds are eaten green in times of starvation. Unripe seeds are toxic to bats (and dogs)
- Sticky fruits can cause severe constipation resulting in dehydration and death
- Juvenile bats can get seeds lodged behind their teeth, causing a slow death from starvation
- Toes caught in the flower sheath, causing self-mutilation and death
- Whole body, or body parts, caught in leaves that are easily shredded by claws creating a cocoon effect around the animal. This causes stress and death if not physically removed
- Premature wearing of teeth due to the hardness of the seeds.

Swimming Pools

Flying across water in pursuit of insects can sometimes end badly for microbats. Flying-foxes, who skim water to drink, can also end up in backyard pools. Ensuring there is an object in the pool that wildlife can climb on to as a refuge, or a rope dangling down from the edge facilitates escape and prevents possible drowning.



Roost disturbance

Microbats have various roosting preferences, but they can also happily take up residence in backyard trees and structures such as roof cavities, power boxes and swimming pool umbrellas.

Microbat roosts can be disturbed or accidentally discovered during tree pruning or home renovations. Contact your local wildlife organisation for assistance.

Erecting bat boxes in your garden will be repaid with their voracious insect control services.

For more information visit:
www.hollowloghomes.com



Overhead Powerlines

Flying-foxes can come into contact with powerlines when flowering or fruiting trees are growing near the wires. During birthing season, a dependent baby flying-fox being carried by its mother often survives electrocution and can remain hidden in the folds of the dead mother's wings for days. Report all bodies on powerlines to your local wildlife group.