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## BAT CARE BRISBANE INC.

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RESCUE MOBILE  
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### **ABOUT BAT CARE**

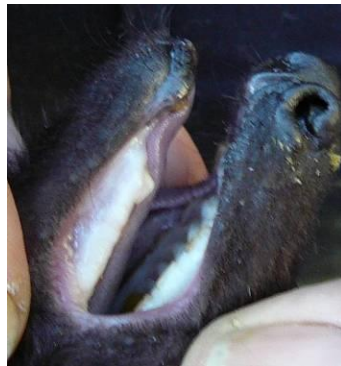
*Bat care Brisbane Inc. is a self funded wildlife organization which is permitted under the Environmental Protection Agency to rescue and care for sick, injured and orphan flying-foxes and microbats.*

*If you would like to help our volunteers in the rescue, care, conservation and education work you can become a member or supporter. You may prefer to send a cheque to Bat Care Brisbane Inc., PO Box 1727 Capalaba 4157 or make a direct payment into our bank account via our web site.*

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Caught in strappy leaves



Premature wearing of teeth due to availability of hard seeds



An aggressive invasive weed in bush land, parks and backyards.

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# COCOS PALM or QUEEN PALM

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*Syagrus romanzoffiana*

## Killer of Flying- foxes



**No sleep?**

**Is there flying-fox  
poo on everything?**

***It's not the flying-  
foxes it's the palm!***

***Do flying-foxes and  
yourself a favour –  
remove Cocos  
Palms from our  
environment.***

**NO PALM  
NO HARM  
BE**

**RESPONSIBLE**

***Help save flying-foxes  
and your local bushland.***

***Rescue Mobile  
0488 228 134***

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**People like to blame the flying-fox for noisy squabbles and poo on cars and on driveways. If we can remove the fruits of the Cocos Palm we are all winners the humans and the bats.**

*Flying-foxes are a keystone species for our Australian environment. Without the job that flying-foxes do in seed dispersal and pollination, our native forests will suffer loss of diversity and may not be able to survive future harmful effects of global warming. We need to protect flying-foxes from harm, help them where we can on a local level, in our own backyards.*

*Remove Cocos palms, reduce the use of barbed-wire and never plant natives up against it, never use backyard fruit tree netting, always plant native fruiting and flowering plants.*

*Flying-fox populations are in rapid decline not only through preventable causes like Cocos Palms but also through uncertain climatic conditions such as drought, cyclones and prolonged rainfall which all affect seasonal flowering and food availability.*

*Help flying-foxes on a local level - in your own back yard.*

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Seeds get caught behind “dog like” Canine teeth and cannot be expelled.



Eating the green unripe seeds may cause sickness due to being toxic



Toes and thumbs can get caught in the strappy leaves and flower sheath.

## **WHY WE NEED COCOS PALMS REMOVED AND HOW THEY AFFECT FLYING-FOXES AND OUR ENVIRONMENT**

- By poisoning when seeds are eaten green in times of hunger (September to January)
- Sticky fruits can cause severe constipation causing dehydration and death in young animals.
- Toes caught in flower sheath causing self-mutilation and death.
- Whole body or body parts caught in strappy leaves that are easily shredded by claws creating a ‘cocoon’ effect around the animal causing stress and death if not physically removed.
- Juvenile animals can get seeds caught behind their “dog like” canine teeth causing slow death from starvation.
- Premature wearing of teeth due to the hard seed – flying-foxes have been known to live for 30 years in captivity but wild animals who appear young are now being rescued with worn, missing or even no teeth.
- Flying-foxes do a great job of seed dispersal but in the case of Cocos Palms this is not a good thing as it contributes to their spread into bushland.

This South-American palm has been a popular garden and street tree for its fast growth and tropical look, it is now regarded as a non-desirable plant due to its rapid spread into bushland and its harmful effect of many species of wildlife. Tree lopping companies say it is keeping them in work as it becomes increasingly unpopular with gardeners and councils due to its high maintenance costs.

