

HELP US TO CARE FOR BATS

Yes I would like to help Bat Care Brisbane with their work and want information about becoming a member.

Yes I would like to help by making a donation

of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Email: _____

BATTY BOAT CRUISES

Wildlife Preservation Society, Brisbane Branch run regular Batty Boat Cruises up the Brisbane River to Indooroopilly Island to watch the spectacular flying-fox fly-out over the river. Cruises run regularly between October and March, all monies raised, goes to help bats.

**For Bookings Ph. WPSQ
(07) 3221 0194**



Photo: John Jacob

ABOUT BAT CARE BRISBANE

Bat Care Brisbane Inc. is a self-funded volunteer organization whose members are permitted under the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to care for sick, injured and orphaned flying-foxes and microbats. We aim to improve the local environment for our urban bats, by planting trees, giving talks with education animals, being proactive in reducing the risks such as: barbed wire, mono-filament netting and by working with Energex to upgrade power lines to prevent power outages and the many hundreds of deaths of flying-foxes by electrocution.

Our objectives are:

- ☛ To provide accurate and informative education, through literature, talks and community events to the General public about the importance of bats.
- ☛ To provide an efficient and humane service to rescue and rehabilitate, sick, injured and orphaned bats, returning them to the wild as soon as and whenever possible.
- ☛ To be active in the conservation of bats.
- ☛ To follow the guidelines set out by the EPA in their Code of Practice "Care and Rehabilitation of Orphaned, Sick or Injured Protected Animals by Wildlife Volunteers"



.Rescue.Education.Conservation.Habitat.

ABN: 99 789 706 217

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Phone committee (07) 3821 0166

Illustrations © Louise Saunders

Helpline: **332 11 229**

MICROBATS

BAT CARE BRISBANE INC.

.RESCUE.EDUCATION.CONSERVATION.HABITAT.



Photo: Les Hall

The Magic of Microbats

Rescue Helpline:

332 11 229

WHAT IS A MICROBAT?



Microbats are mammals and belong to the family order called *Microchiroptera* meaning “little hand-wing”. Like humans, microbats are warm-blooded placental animals and are covered with fur and they nourish their young with milk produced by the mothers. Bats share the same sense as we do in smelling, hearing, seeing and feeling, they have the added benefit of flight and an exceptional system of navigation and prey detection called echolocation. Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight. Although their body plan is similar to other mammals their body has been modified for flight. Their wings are hands the same as our hands only the bones have elongated and are connected by a membrane which is made up of two layers of skin enclosing elastic fibres, blood vessels and nerves.

WHAT ARE THEY EATING?

Microbats eat many pest insects including lawn grub moths, weevils, beetles, midges, flying termites, disease carrying mosquitoes, and many more. Some microbats also eat frogs and small fish. A recent survey in a major grain growing region of Australia, found 100% of a microbats diet were grain weevils. So for crop protection and by helping to limit the use of pesticide, by encouraging microbats we could save our economy as well as our health. Yet we humans are mostly unaware of the benefits of living with bats in our neighbourhood.

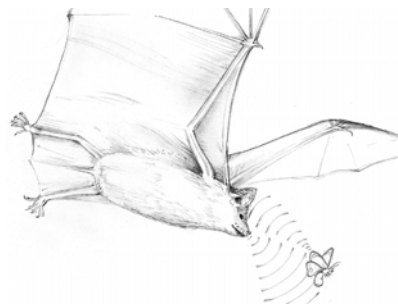


There are nearly 1,000 kinds of bats in the world, which account for almost 1/4 of all mammal species; they are highly beneficial to our economies and to our health in consuming vast quantities of pest and disease carrying insects also by pollinating and dispersing the seeds of plants. Their populations are suffering devastating declines due to habitat loss and a lack of worth.

BLIND AS A BAT!

Contrary to popular belief, bat are not blind and do not become entangled in human hair. Bats use echolocation to help them find food. Microbats make a high-frequency noise from their mouth or nose as they fly; these noises strike objects and bounce back as echoes. The bat can then tell if the object is a tasty insect or a brick wall. Objects as fine as a human hair can be detected in total darkness.

This navigational system allows them to see pictures of sound much the same as our vision allows us to see. It also explains their large and unusual ear and nose shapes.



Bats are fascinating animals; it is the community who are “blind to bats”.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP BATS

1 . Put up a bat box in your backyard and monitor it to make sure it is not taken up by wasps or ants.

2 . Don’t use electric insect zappers they don’t just kill the bad insects they also kill the beneficial insects within our environment. They remove the food for local microbats.

3 . Join Bat Care Brisbane to learn more about bats and how you can help save them.

4 . Do not touch bats if you want to help bats do not touch them, like any frightened wild animal it may bite. Bats are not a health risk unless you are bitten by an infected animal. If bats bite people they have to be killed and be tested for Australian Bat Lyssavirus. Less than 1/2 of 1% of bats carry ABLV. Do not risk your health or the bats life; call Bat Care Brisbane for assistance.

If you find a microbat during the daytime cover it with a box and call our help line. If you have microbats in your pool umbrella or a rolled up blind, open it after dark and leave it open till morning. They hopefully have an alternative roost or you could help them by putting up a bat box. Dead trees and hollow limbs are critical habitat for many microbat species but they will also live in rooves of houses, caves, bridges, and culverts and readily take up residence in artificial roosts.

A single little microbat can catch 1,200 mosquito-sized insects in just one hour.