

Bat Conservation & Rescue's Education super bat.....

***GILBERT** was orphaned when his mother was sadly electrocuted on the Gold Coast with Gilbert clinging onto her rotting body, crying for help for 3 days.*

Luckily for little Gilbert, a passerby heard his cry for help and called bat rescuers on the Gold Coast. They quickly called Energex, who carefully lifted Gilbert and his mum's body down from the powerlines.

Little Gilbert was lovingly raised to the fine specimen you see here today!

***WHAT A SUPERSTAR** - it's no wonder he likes the celebrity status!*

Gilbert helps Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld show people how nice bats are, but he is also out there trying to help his wild cousins survive by telling people about their importance.

Being a SUPERSTAR is hard work. With 4 T.V. episodes of TOTALLY WILD, one about netting, one about pollination, one about bat life, he is a true bat hero.

His role is EDUCATION and he attends green day events like Threatened Species Day, World Environment Day, as well as talks to schools and many other community groups.

***WHAT A HERO** - Gilbert showed the AWAC (Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) just how small a bat brain is as a target compared to the target his wing span presented to fruit growers' shotguns. Horrendous wing injuries cause a long & painful death (4-5 days), and in the case of mother bats the babies die slowly as well. The committee decided it was cruel to shoot a moving black target at night and recommended that no more permits be given to farmers to shoot flying-foxes. It was also explained just how vital bats are in spreading native seeds of trees and pollinating our forests and that their numbers are on rapid decline due to this constant shooting, habitat loss, climate change and illegal disturbance.*

It is now illegal to shoot flying-foxes in Queensland due to cruelty. Most farmers realise the advantages of exclusion netting to protect their crops for the returned benefit, shooting bats was only a quick fix year after year. There are a small minority who are still shooting bats even though it is now illegal to do so.



Gilbert's Personal Profile

SPECIES
(Pteropus alecto)

Black Flying-Fox

DATE OF BIRTH

8th October 2005

PLACE OF BIRTH

Cascades Garden Gold Coast

CURRENT RESIDENCE

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc.

PERSONALITY

Outgoing and inquisitive

APPEARANCE

Handsome, movie star appeal and has his own "batboy" cologne

BEST BAT FRIENDS

Jacquie and Monique (they can be bossy sometimes though!)

DIET

Fruit and juice

FAVOURITE FOOD

Eucalypt blossom

FAVOURITE TOY

He loves a toy bear, he beats it up

DISLIKES

Windy cold days

LIKES

To meet people and likes his own private bedroom

WHY IS HE IN CARE?

He has no canine teeth (the large dog-like ones) so would not survive long in the wild

HOW DOES HE HELP

He helps spread the good news about bats, he shows how beautiful bats are (he's cute eh?), how intelligent (Gilbert is as smart as a dog or a 2 yr old child!), how misunderstood they are (they are not the villains after all!) and how important bats are to our forests and our economy.

