

NEWS RELEASE

TRANSPORT OF REHABILITATED BATS GETS TICK OF APPROVAL BY SANCTUARY

'DOGTAINERS' OFFERS HALF PRICE FLIGHT FOR BAT TICK VICTIMS

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A COLONY of Tolga Scrub Bats currently being rehabilitated on the Gold Coast will finally be returned home to Cairns thanks to a generous donation by Dogtainer's Animal Transport.

Hundred's of orphaned baby bats were brought to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Gold Coast Bat Rescue for emergency care after becoming victims of Cairns' most horrific paralysis tick season to date.

"During the season, the bats swoop down low to the ground to feast on the wild tobacco seed where they pick up paralysis ticks," Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary's Curator of Life Sciences, Matt Hingely, said.

"The bats and their young are feeding extensively in these low-lying plants and are picking up increased numbers of paralysis ticks which has led to hundreds of orphaned babies.

"There was a weed control program in place to minimise the spread of tobacco to protect the bats.

"It appears however that this season was unsuccessful for some reason as the number of orphans had skyrocketed again.

"The Tolga Bat Hospital couldn't handle the enormous number of bats they received, so some of the orphaned babies were sent to us and Gold Coast Bat Rescue who passed the animals on to their network of bat carers.

"Along with the significant personal commitment made by many to rear the bats was the dilemma of return transport.

"The cost to fly them back is extremely high and we would have to pay out of our own pockets," Mr Hingely said.

After reading an article in the local media, help came in the form of Dogtainer's Animal Transport who offered to transport the bats back to their natural habitat for half price.

Being non-profit organisations, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Gold Coast Bat Rescue could not afford the high cost of moving the large number of bats in the three separate flights it would take to transport them.

"We are so grateful that Dogtainer's were able to step in and help us out, because it's really important these bats are returned to their natural habitat.

“We simply couldn’t afford to transport them back otherwise.

“There are only about 5000 to 10,000 bats at the Tolga Scrub, so to keep the population going, we need to minimise the effects of the tick season by returning the ones we have rehabilitated.

“We hope to have the bats back to Cairns within the next couple of weeks,” Mr Hingely said.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Gold Coast Bat Rescue wish to thank their volunteers who have generously cared for the bats around the clock and Dogtainer’s Animal Transport for their kind contribution to the rehabilitation and return of the Tolga Scrub Bats.

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For further information please contact:

Matt Hingely
Curator of Life Sciences and Interpretation
0423 988 033

Sophie Hickson – HicksonMedia
5591 2556
0405 227 444
www.hicksonmedia.com.au