

Members comments needed on issues for discussion with Qld Health & EPA re Flying foxes.

Members of the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council have been negotiating since 2006 with representatives of Queensland Health and EPA concerning various issues concerning flying foxes and vaccinations raised by our members (a big Thankyou to Bob James for input here).

Hopefully QWRC might see some action soon. Will bat folk please review the following and contact secretary@qwrc.org.au with any other issues that we can raise on your behalf as soon as possible.

It would appear the EPA are acting on pressure being applied by the Fruit Growers Association now that shooting of FF will be stopped after September.

Shows what a State Fruitgrowers and Orchardists body can do for its members but QWRC must make sure we do not get railroaded from our original issues. WE NEED YOUR INPUT so gather your ideas and let us know. Thankyou

Issues for discussion with Qld Health & EPA

- ▶ Clarification of what a scratch is that will require a FF to be euthanased to further investigate its C3 status. This requires a clear and unambiguous description of what the wound needs to be before further treatment/intervention is undertaken. i.e. "a scratch needs to involve nerved tissue-----blood needs to be flowing" or "the puncture wound needs to penetrate to the dermal layer and result in flowing blood" We want to stop the unnecessary euthanasia of animals and thus immunisation routines happening.
- ▶ Look at the possibility of developing a system whereby the animal is kept alive and in care and the immunisations given while the animal is further assessed.
- ▶ How to achieve a better coverage of vaccinated vets to assist with euthanasia when necessary due to an injured animal.
- ▶ Availability of vaccine to both vets and rehabbers and for a more reasonable cost.
- ▶ Clearer education of medical staff regarding both immunisation protocols and the requirement for regular testing for titre levels.
- ▶ Establishment of a recognised and accepted data base of rehabbers and vets to assist with injured animals. (This will have to be developed by regions and needs to be attached to the disaster plan.)
- ▶ Investigation and development of a more animal friendly means of testing the animal for ABLV.
- ▶ Possible development of a vaccine especially for ABLV.

The upcoming preliminary meeting to involve QWRC Representatives, EPA/QPWS DPI and a Representative from the Australian Veterinary Association