

7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

Draft Resolution 7.10

Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling Article III of the Agreement, especially paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5;

Noting that bat rescue and rehabilitation involves rescuing bats and bat colonies at risk and temporarily caring for bats which have lost their roosts, or those which are diseased, injured or orphaned; then every effort is made to release them back into the wild;

Further noting Resolution 5.2 on Bats Rabies in Europe that recommends rabies surveillance of bats which have died or injured bats which have been euthanized;

Further noting Resolution 5.4 on Monitoring Bats across Europe for the further collection of faunistic data;

Further noting Resolution 5.7 on Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance since most bats received by bat rehabilitators are found in or nearby buildings;

Further noting Resolution 6.5 on Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices;

Further noting Resolution 6.8 on Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats;

Further noting Resolution 6.16 on Implementation of the Conservation and Management plan 2011-2014 that parties should continue efforts to raise public awareness to improve education;

Further noting Resolution 7.13 on Bats and Insulation which recommends the collection and sharing of information on bat presence in buildings;

Recognising that Bat rescue and rehabilitation may play an important role in bat conservation;

Further recognising that relevant information obtained from bat rehabilitators can be used for practical bat conservation including roosts;

Further recognising that data collected by bat rehabilitators can provide important information for scientific research such as species distribution and disease monitoring as well as for practical conservation;

Further recognising that the level of bat rehabilitation varies across Parties and Non-Party Range states ranging from countries with no rehabilitators to those with established operating networks;

Further recognising that the recording protocols are not standardised and differ widely across Parties and Non-Party Range states;

Further recognising that public awareness is important for effective bat conservation;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Encourage the establishment and support of effective bat rescue rehabilitation systems in their countries;
2. Encourage capacity building and training in order to raise the standards of bat rescue and rehabilitation;
3. Establish standardised record protocols (Annex 1) for bat rehabilitators and encourage the contribution of data to any existing national database, or if absent, encourage the establishment of such a database;
4. Encourage collaboration between bat rehabilitators and bat scientists for the purposes of data collection, other scientific research and exchange of knowledge;
5. Use only captive disabled bats for public events when national legislation permits it;

Requests the Advisory Committee to develop guidelines for bat rehabilitators and develop a system for collecting information for international cooperation.

A standard form of bat record protocol applicable for bat conservation should include at least these items:

ID number

Name of finder: **Contact to finder:**

Name of rehabilitator/organization:

Date of finding:

Location of finding (address if appropriate):

Place of finding: ground building block-of-flats facade cellar
tree unknown other

Circumstances of finding: reconstruction insulation fallen tree
brought by cat dog unknown
other

Bite incidents human cat dog other

Species:

Sex: male female **Age:** non-volant baby juvenile adult

Individual/colony: Individual Colony Size of colony

Condition of bat: normal severe dehydration exhausted and emmaciated
injured dead other

Sent for disease test: Yes No

Final fate: Released Euthanasia Captivity

Comments:

We also recommend to take photographic documentation if possible.