



A baby being carried by a mother
Picture credit: Nick Edards

Flying-foxes on Power lines

October is the time when grey-headed flying-foxes start giving birth up and down the east coast of Australia. For the first month of the pup's life Mum carries him or her when she goes out foraging for food each night.

Even after the first few weeks, Mum might decide that the food is better somewhere else and carry the now very heavy but still flightless pup to a new area. This means that bats can be carrying young up until the end of February.

Unfortunately Mum, tired from carrying the large and ungrateful baby around is likely to need to rest during her journey. In urban areas this can mean coming down to power lines. Under these circumstances she will be killed.

Her baby almost always survives the electrocution – but,

unable to move off mum's body, starvation if not removed. Pups surviving for up to a week after

It's often hard to tell if a dead bat beneath her wing or not. You pup crying – or you might not. the baby with binoculars or, at safest course of action is to call **3333** or **Sydney Wildlife (9413 body. A trained volunteer will electricity provider to get the body**



Mum and baby on power lines

will die of thirst or have been recorded mum's death.

on power lines has a baby might be able to hear the Sometimes you can see night, a strong light. The either **WIRES (8977 4300)** and report the work with the local down and the baby will

be raised and released.

If you are outside of Sydney, the Department of the Environment and Climate Change (131 555) will be able to give you the nearest wildlife rehabilitation organisation's phone number.

In fact, any flying-fox found away from the camp site during the day is likely to be in difficulties. Please do not touch the animal but call WIRES or Sydney Wildlife for help. A trained volunteer will assist you.

Grey-headed flying-foxes are listed, at both a state and federal level, as vulnerable to extinction. They are a keystone species for seed and pollen dispersal and critical to the health of our forests.



Grace and her dummy. Grace came into care at 1 day old and will be released when she is old enough to fend for herself.

Picture credit: Sharlene Kemp

If you see animals on power lines please call WIRES (8977 3333) or Sydney Wildlife (9413 4300).