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Overstrand

Monthly Report

September 2024

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INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 September to 30 September 2024.

The feeding behaviour of the managed troops in the eastern Overstrand improved substantially during September with the arrival of spring. All troops recorded 100% time out of town and only a few individuals from the Vogelgat Troop were recorded in town on one day. This seasonal trend is typical for baboons in the western Cape. In the Voëlklip Troop, individual time out of town was 99.2%, which is the highest it has been since May 2024. The greatest improvement, however, was in the reduction in the number of incursions recorded by members of the Voëlklip Troop. In August the troop was responsible for 51 incursions, four of which were assertive. In September members of the Voëlklip Troop were responsible for only eight incursions, the worst of which were two bin raids.

The Onrus and Hamilton Russel Troops were both completely absent from any urban areas during September. Both troops were infrequently seen, and the Hamilton-Russel Troop was not observed first hand on any day during the month.

Although the Vogelgat Troop was not recorded in town during September, there was a slight decrease in individual time out of town, down to 99.6% of the time. The number of incursions increased slightly, from two to six over two days. It should be noted that whilst this amount of time in town was still fairly brief, it was a deviation from the long-term trend where members of the Vogelgat Troop were totally absent from town for a period of ten months (October 2023-July 2024). In this regard, it is important to note that since the radio collared female VGF2, was found dead in May, it has not been possible to anticipate the movements of the troop and always set up the virtual fence when the troop is heading towards town.

OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS

VOËLKLIP TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town increased from 99.8% in August to 100% in September.
- Time out of town for individuals increased significantly from 91.5% in August to 99.2% in September.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100.0	+ 0.2	0	0:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
Individuals	99.2	+ 7.7	2	2:54	1:27	02:38	00:16

Table 1. In Town Statistics for the Voëlklip Troop for September 2024. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in September was 11 hours and 54 minutes.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Individuals from the Voëlklip Troop were present in town on two days during the month. This is a significant reduction from the twelve days in which troop members were in town the previous month.
- On 30 September five individuals entered Fernkloof during the morning and raided two bins. Aside from the two raided bins, there were many attractants in the area including fruiting trees and unsecured compost heaps. These individuals spent approximately two and a half hours in the urban area.
- Apart from the single incursion above, the whole troop remained out of town during September while foraging extensively on bulbs and roots and increasingly on buds and stems in Protea thickets.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																													
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																											
OVERSTRAND		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	TOTAL													
BABOON TROOP: Voëlkliip		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Attacking pets</td><td>7</td><td>Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Raid bins</td><td>5</td><td>Raid unoccupied house or vehicle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Non malicious damage</td><td>6</td><td>Raid occupied house or vehicle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>Breaking & Entering/Damaging property</td><td>9</td><td>Nocturnal Raiding</td> </tr> </table>																												4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	9	Nocturnal Raiding
4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																																										
2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle																																										
3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle																																										
8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property	9	Nocturnal Raiding																																										
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2024																																											
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	TOTAL													
Troop																																													
UNKM1 GREEN TAG	M																																												
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																																												
VKF5 RED TAG	F																																												
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																																												
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F																																												
VKF7 PINK TAG	F																																												
UnID Sub-Male	M																																												
VKM7	M																																												
UnID Males	M																																												
UnID Male	M																																												
VKM6U	M																								1																				
UnID Females	F																																												
UnID Female	F																																												
UnID Individuals																																													
UnID Juveniles																																													
	%																																												
TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)		HRS																																											
Troop	0.0																																												
Individuals	0.8																																												
Roost:	AM	2	6,21	4	4	4	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2	2	2	4	2	2	5	4	4	4	4	9	8	9	6	4	5	4													
Roost:	PM	6	4	4	4	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2	2	2	4	2	3	5	4	4	4	6	8	8	6	4	5	4	4														
Roost Sites	1	Golf Course					2	Heights Dam					3	Green Kloof					4	Platte Klip					5	Adder Ladder																			
	6	Lower Dam					7	Middle Dam					8	Upper Dam					9	Dragon's Back					10	Droë Kloof																			
	11	Blaaie Kloof					12	Big Titanic/Cave					13	Small Titanic					14	10th Ave Kloof					15	11th Ave Kloof																			
	16	A-Shape					17	Bos Klip					18	Hermanus Heights					19	Steyn's Kloof					20	In Town																			
	21	Tallie's Kloof					22	Kanonkop					23	BHB Waterfall					24	Rooiklip					25	ZigZag																			
	26	9th Avenue Kloof					27	Shade Rock					28	BOSKO					29	Groot Uitkyk					?	Unknown																			
ID Features of Baboons																																													
General remarks																																													

Figure 1. The Voëlkliip Troop incident sheet for September 2024.

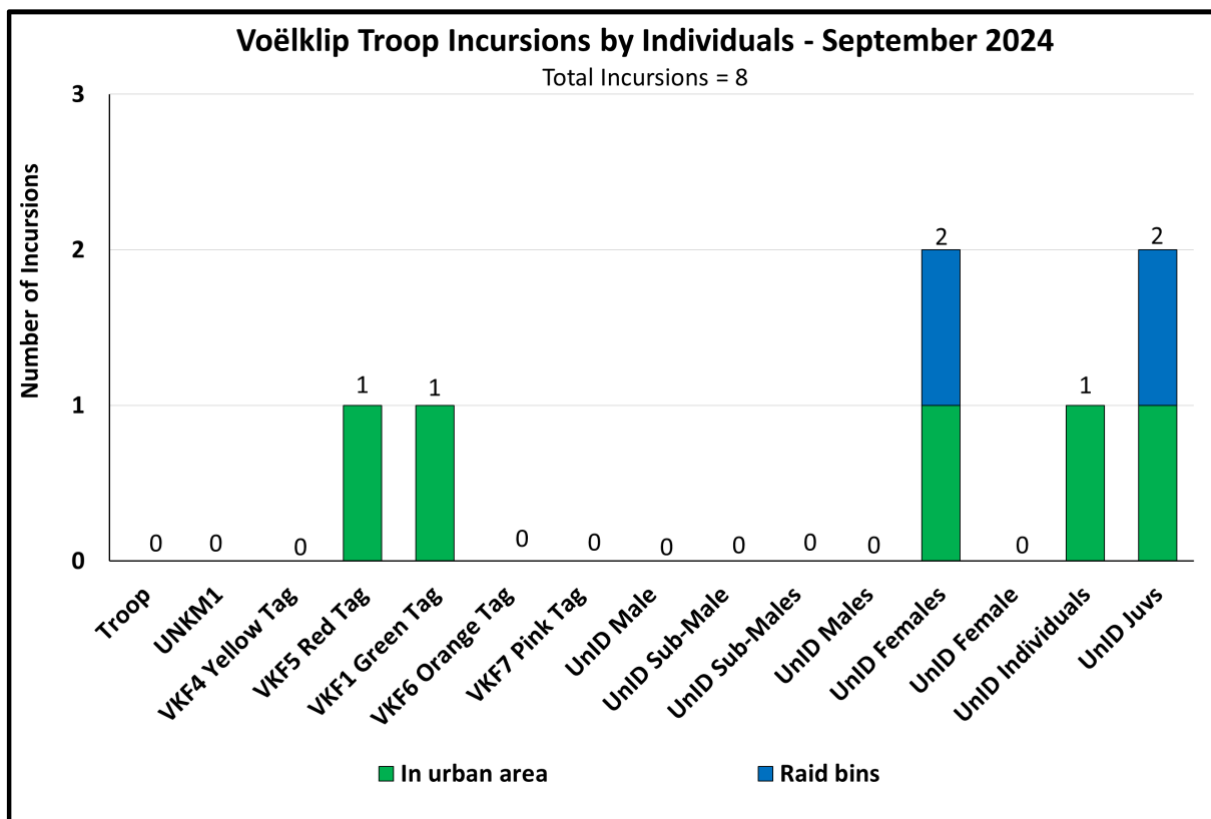


Figure 2. The Voëlkliip Troop Incursion summary graph for September 2024.

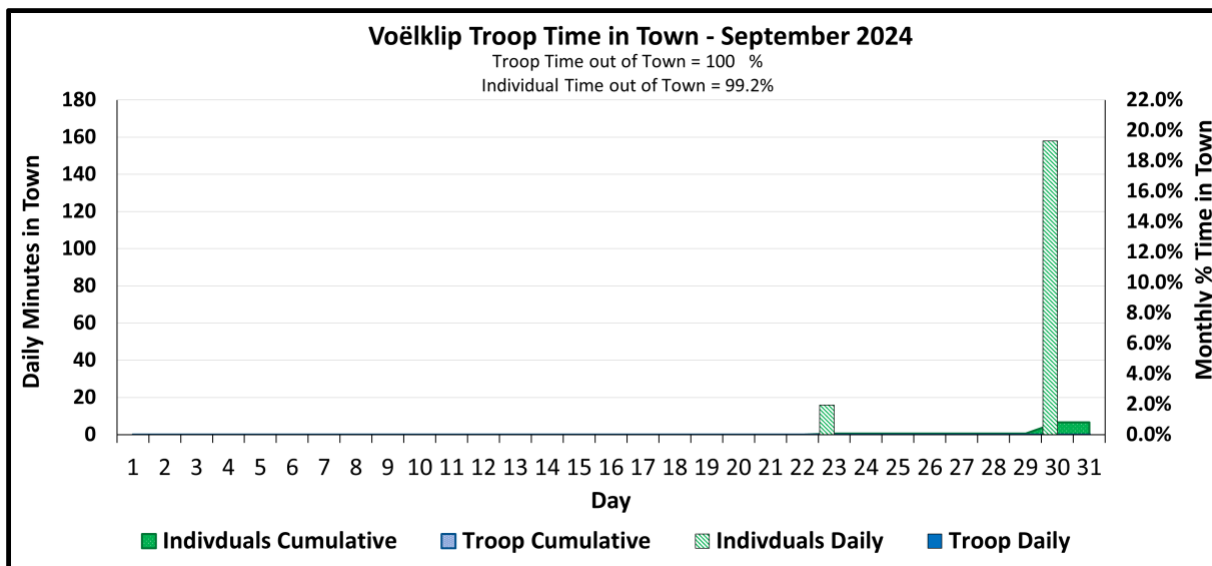


Figure 3. The Voëlklip Troop Time out of Town summary graph for September 2024.

VOGELGAT TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of Town for the troop remained at 100% during September.
- Time out of Town for individuals decreased from 99.9% during August to 99.6% during September.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100	0.0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00
Individuals	99.6	-0.3	1	1:33	1:33	1:33	1:33

Table 2. In Town Statistics for the Vogelgat Troop for September 2024. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in September was 11 hours and 54 minutes.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Individuals from the Vogelgat Troop were present in town on only one day during the month. On 24 September HWS was notified via the baboon hotline of the presence of five baboons in Voëlklip. During their brief incursion into town, lasting approximately 1hr 33min, a bin was raided by all of the individuals.
- For the majority of the month the troop utilised the core area of their homerange, with activity focussed around Stillwaters and Pennant 9. The troop was seen infrequently because of the dense vegetation along the R43, and were most often located by way of individual vocalisations.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																															
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																													
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																																								
BABOON TROOP: VG		VOGELGAT		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																																						
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2024		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																																						
BABOON ID	Sex	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	TOTAL															
Troop																																															
UnID Male	M																																														
UnID Males	M																								1,2																						
UnID Females	F																								1,2																						
UnID Female	F																								1,2																						
UnID Individual																																															
UnID Individuals																																															
UnID Juveniles																																															
UnID Juvenile																																															
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS																
Troop	0.0																																														
Individuals	0.4																									93																					
Roost:	AM	19	19	19	22	19	19	19	21	19	19	19	19	19	19	6	6	6	6	19	19	6	6	1	6	9	3	1	1	19	19	19															
Roost:	PM	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	21	19	19	19	19	19	19	6	6	6	6	19	19	6	6	6	6	6	3	3	1	1	19	19	19														
Roost Sites		1	Baboon Castle	2	18th Ave Kloof	3	11th Ave Kloof	4	10th Ave Kloof	5	Uitkyk Punt	6	Vogelgat Nature Reserve	7	Halfway Ridge	8	Bosklip	9	Groot Uitkyk	10	1st Kloof	11	2nd Kloof	12	3rd Kloof	13	4th Kloof	14	17th Avenue Kloof	15	Waterfall	16	A Shape	17	Bitterbiesie	18	Maanskyknop	19	Stillwaters	20	Maanskyknop SS	21	Lagoon SS	22	Southwinds	?	Unknown
ID Features of Baboons																																															
General remarks																																															

Figure 4. The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for September 2024.

ONRUS TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of Town for the troop remained at 100% during September.
- Time out of Town for individuals remained at 100% during September.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100,0	0,0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00
Individuals	100,0	0,0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00

Table 3. In Town Statistics for the Onrus Troop for September 2024. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in September was 11 hours and 54 minutes.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The Onrus Troop was entirely absent from the urban area for the whole month.
- The troop’s activity was focused around the pig farm and the stands of alien trees in the park run area. The troop was observed in and around the pig farm on several days, either lounging on the roofs or attempting to access loose pig feed.
- There were no direct observations of the troop for approximately fourteen days. There were no observations of the troop from 3-6 September or from 20-30 September.
- The collared male, ONM2, has not been seen since since 15 August. It is not clear what happened to this male or why the collar has ceased to transmit location data.

HAMILTON RUSSELL

- The Hamilton Russell Troop was not directly observed on any day during September.
- On 12 and 15 of September baboon vocalisations were heard in the vicinity of Camphill Estate and the Volmoed Valley respectively.
- A motorist informed HWS of the presence of baboons near the entrance to Bourchard Finlayson Farm. However, by the time field rangers arrived in the area, the troop had moved on

VIRTUAL FENCE

- The virtual fence was used on two days during September.
- Activations were used to deter the Voëlkliip and Vogelgat Troops.

GENERAL COMMENTS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

No births, deaths, or migrations were recorded in the managed troops in the Overstrand East during September.

Troop	October	June	June	June	June	June	September 2024			Total observed Births (1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024)	Total observed Deaths (1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024)	Total observed Migrations (1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlkliip	29	29	27	37	39	43	0	0	0	0	1	0
Vogelgat	N/A	22*	29	27	27*	23	0	0	0	0	1	0
Onrus	N/A	N/A	25*	24*	24*	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Russel	N/A	N/A	21*	25	25*	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	51	102	113	115	118	0	0	0	0	2	0

Table 4. Population data for the managed troops in the Overstrand in September 2024. Emigration and Immigration figures show animal movements between troops. * Troop sizes were estimated when accurate counts were not feasible. Note: **Troop numbers are counted twice a year in December and June.** Troop numbers are not updated during the year by just counting births and deaths, because these may occur without being observed by field rangers.

Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - June)	2021/22 (July 2021 - June 2022)	2022/23 (July 2022 - June 2023)	2023/24 (July 2023 - June 2024)	2024/25 (July 2024 - June 2025)	September 2024	TOTAL (since October 2019)
Management	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	9	9	1	1	0	23
Direct *	1	2	8	8	1	1	0	21
Indirect **	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Natural	2	7	7	4	3	1	0	24
Unknown	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	6
TOTAL DEATHS	6	9	19	16	5	2	0	57

Table 5. Causes of baboon deaths since December 2019; *Deaths caused directly by humans, such as motor vehicle accidents, shooting, poisoning and dogs. **Deaths caused indirectly by humans such as electrocutions and fire.

HOTLINE DATA

A total of 16 hotline calls were received during September, less than half the number received during the previous month (37). Most of the hotline calls were received from non-managed troops (n = 7) with the Voëlklip Troop receiving the most of any managed troop (n = 6). One occupied house incursion was reported by a member of the Voëlklip Troop on 30 September; two baboons gained access to a kitchen

Troop	Number of Calls received	Area	Types of Call
Voëlklip Troop	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fernkloof (2) Hamilton-Russel (1) Voëlklip (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting Baboon location (3) Enquiries/Complaints (1) Accidental Damage (1) Occupied House Incursion (1)
Vogelgat Troop	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voëlklip (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting Baboon location (2)
Onrus Troop	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onrus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting Baboon Location (1)
Other Troops	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pringle Bay (4) Kleinmond (1) Clarence Drive (1) Betty’s Bay (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting Baboon location (4) Accidental Damage (1) Injured Baboon (1) Enquiries/Complaints (1)

Table 6. Overstrand hotline call data for September 2024.

RECORDED INCURSIONS

A total of 14 incursions were recorded during September. This is a significant decrease from the previous month, in which there were 55 incursions. The Vogelgat and Voëlklip Troops were responsible for all of the recorded incursions, with six and eight incursions respectively. The majority of incursions (n = 9) recorded baboons in the urban area, with the remaining incursions being bin raids (n = 5).

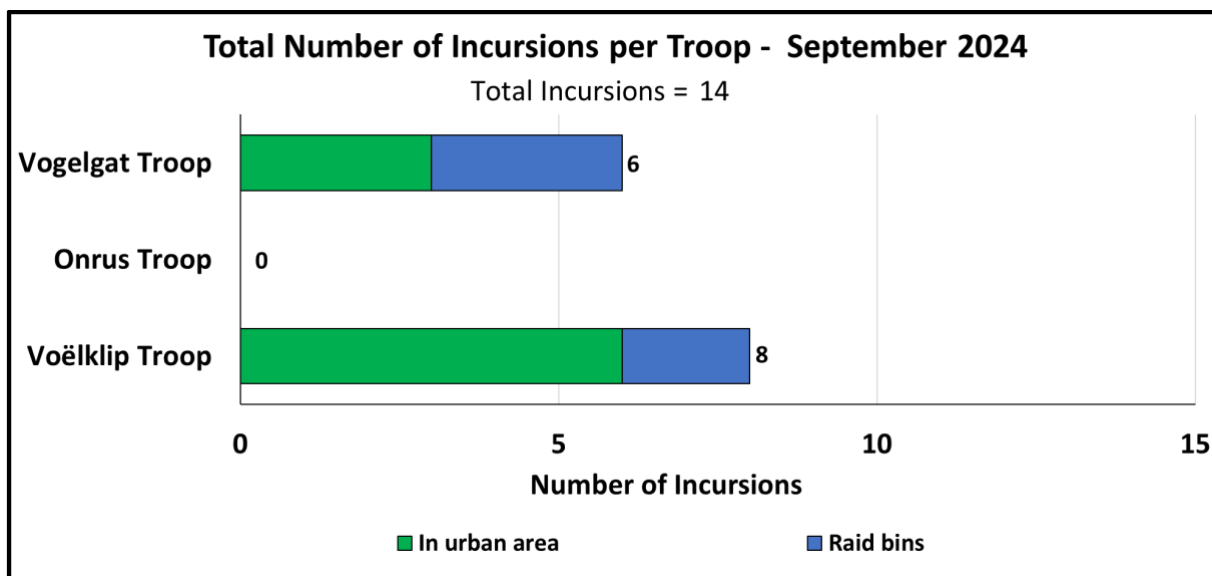


Figure 5. Graph showing incursion behaviour of managed troops in the eastern Overstrand in September 2024.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time spent out of town by troops in the eastern Overstrand during September remained at 100%, while individual time out of town increased from 97.8% to 99.7%. Members of the Voëklip Troop spent just under three hours in the urban area. This was a huge reduction when compared to August when individuals spent almost 27 hours in town.

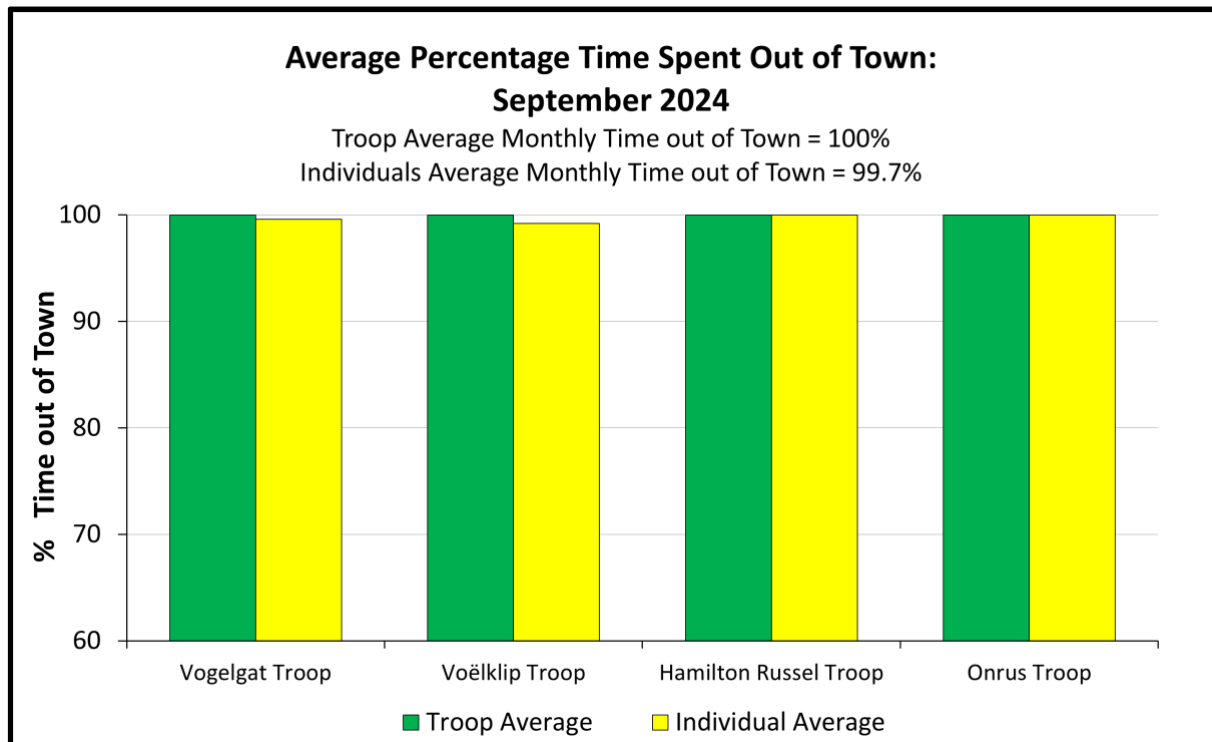


Figure 6. Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during September 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritized** to take place in the early mornings and starting on the edge of town and working inwards.
- Residents should **not** put out their waste **the night before** collection day because this may encourage baboons to raid that evening or early the next morning.
- **Refuse bags** should never be left lying open on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.
- All bins used in baboon effected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon proofed. This includes secure compost bins or containers.
- Ripening fruits should be removed from fruiting trees.
- Residents are strongly discouraged from feeding wildlife, including birds. Bird seed is a powerful attractant for baboons.
- Residents are encouraged to record and report the feeding of wildlife to the municipality, CapeNature, or to the baboon hotline (072 028 0008).
- Dogs should always be on a leash when walking in an area where baboons may be present. This is mandatory in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve.

CONCLUSION

September was a fairly uneventful month, with few major incidents to report. Nevertheless, there were significant improvements in the behaviour of the Voëlklip Troop. Time out of town for individuals increased by 7.7% and the number of incursions fell by 84% (from 55 to eight). It is likely that the improved weather as summer approaches had a positive effect on the troop's behaviour. The troop was frequently seen foraging on the tender new growth in the stands of Proteas on the mountain slopes. The greater availability of palatable foraging sources, as well as the warmer temperatures may have lowered the need amongst troop members to seek out human derived foodstuffs (HDF's) in the town below.

The Vogelgat Troop's behaviour remained fairly consistent with that of the previous month, with time out of town decreasing slightly. Additionally, several individuals raided a bin on one day during September. This troop was directly observed infrequently during the month, with field staff having to rely on vocalisations in order to locate the troop. The lack of a GPS collar on the troop significantly hampered efforts to pre-empt movements towards town and made locating the troop on the slopes above Voëlklip challenging.

Similarly,, the Onrus Troop was difficult to locate in September, with the troop directly observed on only sixteen days. ONM2, the collared male, has not been seen since 15 August. As a result, when the troop moved into the mountains around Hawston Gorge it was extremely difficult to locate.

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