



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE HERMANUS URBAN SPACES LESS ATTRACTIVE TO BABOONS

OUR CHALLENGE

Cape Chacma baboons forage extensively from the mountains down to the beaches, seeking nutrient rich food growing in low lying, fertile soil. Urbanisation has reduced their ability to roam freely. Further, as highly intelligent and adaptive primates, baboons have learnt that human homes and gardens offer potential food much higher in calories than their natural fynbos. This motivates them to enter the suburbs to seek out these sources. The result is often property damage and conflict with residents as well as physical harm to baboons.

THE LAW

Baboons are a protected species in the Western Cape (CapeNature Conservation Laws Amendment Act, 2000, Ordinance 19 of 1974). It is illegal to feed, kill or injure baboons, or to keep a baboon in captivity without a permit. Offences are punishable by law and carry stiff penalties.



Did you know 1 loaf bread = calories of 1 day fynbos foraging



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

In Hermanus, we enjoy living close to nature. Its, therefore, both the local authorities and our community's responsibility to sustainably and respectfully manage our baboons when in our urban space for the safety and peace of both people and wildlife. The only way to modify their raiding behaviour is to limit their access to easy food sources. With the effective implementation of baboon monitoring and preventative measures implemented in every residence, baboons will learn that raiding is not worth it. This vital change is only possible if every person plays a part in the process through staying informed, securing their homes as well as minimising the attractiveness of their properties to baboons. Through all working together, we can assist in shifting baboons' learnt behaviour to focus on foraging in the wild.



PREVENT ENTRY

- Install fitted burglar bars and security doors with gaps less than 6cm apart.
- Install an angle bracket or patio door lock on your sliding doors.
- Use longer screws to hold window latches in place.
- Use round door handle as more difficult for baboons to use.
- Keep windows and doors locked if baboons are in the area - especially when not at home.
- Set your alarm beams in garden when leaving home.
- For more detailed information, read "[Baboon Proofing your Home](#)"



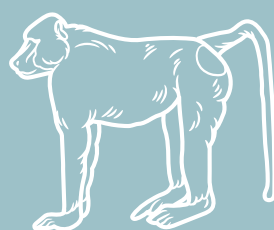
REDUCE ACCESS TO FOOD SOURCES

- No food should be visible through windows (even fake fruit).
- Do not feed wildlife as these grains may attract baboons.
- Feed pets inside.
- Store compost in lockable compost bins not open heaps.
- Plant cleverly: Baboons love to eat nutritious fruits, flowers and foliage.
- Enclose vegetable gardens and fruit trees in baboon proof fencing or pick fruit/nuts.



MANAGE YOUR WASTE EFFECTIVELY

- Use upright baboon-proof dustbins for your waste - it's the law!
- Secure baboon-proof bins to a wall or post so they can't be knocked over.
- Do not overfill your bin.
- Only put refuse bins out before 7:30am on day of collection.
- Don't leave black bags outside bins or on pavement.
- Drop-off household waste next to Voelklip OK Supermarket.
- Take garden waste to the Hermanus Transfer Station or the Prawn Flats drop-off.
- Make sure visitors/tenants comply.
- Read the [Overstrand Municipality's Waste Management information sheet](#)



DON'T FEED BABOONS

- It is illegal and you will be fined.
- It encourages them to continue raiding to the detriment of the people and the animals.
- It increases intra troop conflict with possible resulting injuries.
- Our calorie rich food can lead to poor health and increased birth rates.
- Fynbos foraging is crucial for the ecology as baboons are important seed dispersers.
- They do not need our food!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY BABOON HOTLINE

For baboon sightings
and concerns
069 151 5962

COMMUNITY WHATSAPP

Join your local WhatsApp
Baboon alert groups to
remain informed and keep
your neighbours aware of
baboon movements.

Hermanus Heights
Russel Schierhout
082 2112 527

Kwaaiwater
Carine De Clerk
082 773 7937

Fernkloof
Errol van Staden
083 637 0700

Voelklip
Doug Taylor
072 872 6271



HERMANUS
BABOON ACTION GROUP

The Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG) aims to minimise baboon habituation in our Hermanus urban space to ensure a clean, safe environment for the community and baboons. This is achieved through raising awareness and education as well as liaising with the community, private organisations and local public authorities regarding ongoing baboon and related bylaw management as well as communication campaigns.

For more information, advice and guidelines. visit www.hermanusbaboons.co.za