Help us to protect Cape Town’s baboon population

Feeding of baboons is punishable under the Nature Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974

BABOONS: A LIFESTYLE CHOICE

Living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon home ranges.

WHY DO BABOONS COME TO SUBURBS?

In their natural state baboons forage extensively, from the vegetation on the mountains down to the beaches where they feed on shell fish.

The urbanisation of the Cape Peninsula has drastically reduced the baboons’ foraging ranges.

Now, surrounded by suburbs, they have developed a preference for the more nutritious and abundant fruits, flowers and foliage of alien vegetation. They have also learnt that foraging in suburbs is more rewarding, especially on garbage collection day.

MORE ABOUT BABOONS

- The average baboon is many times stronger and faster than the average human.
- Baboons would rather flee than fight.
- Foraging is what baboons do to survive. They will always seek the easiest source of nourishment.
- Baboons are attracted to places they think might provide food and will return if they have been successful in finding food there.
- Favourite targets are wheelie bins, vegetable gardens, compost heaps and fruit trees.
- They will break into houses if they see anything tempting inside, such as open grocery cupboards, full fruit bowls, food left lying on kitchen work surfaces and bowls of pet food on the floor.

MANAGING YOUR LOCKABLE BIN

A - Baboons CAN open lockable bin latches.

B - Baboons CANNOT open this latch if it is locked.

C - Baboons CANNOT open this latch if it is locked.

NB: Secure bin upright and keep it locked for best baboon-proofing.

Making progress possible. Together.
PRECAUTIONS

Make your premises unappealing to baboons
- Acknowledged baboon-proof electrified perimeter fencing is the best defence.
- Electrified barriers under the eaves prevent baboons from climbing onto the roof.
- Place security cameras, security system sensors and television antennae in protective housing or a safe place like the roof cavity.
- Completely enclose vegetable gardens and compost heaps or surround them with an electric fence.
- Avoid planting fruit trees.
- Cultivate indigenous plants.
- Feeding of birds and squirrels also attract baboons.

Secure your house
- Install burglar bars and security gates with bars less than 8 centimetres apart.
- Windows must have a latch at each end of the opening edge so that baboons can’t pull the frame and break the glass.
- Sliding doors must have night bolts to prevent baboons from lifting them off their tracks.
- Feed your pets inside only and conceal their food when they are not eating.

WHEN BABOONS ARE IN THE AREA DO ...
- Lock all doors and secure all windows.
- Put away all food sources.
- Identify the baboon’s escape route and make sure that its path is clear.
- Back away slowly if the baboon is near you.
- Keep pets out of the way.

BINS AND BABOONS
- Apply for a lockable bin if you qualify for one. They are only supplied to residents in specific areas.
- Secure your bin off the ground to a wall or pole. Baboons have difficulty opening upright bins as their own weight keeps the lid shut.
- Keep the bin locked on collection day.
- Store your bin in a lockable refuse room, garage or shed.

HELP US KEEP OUR BABOONS SAFE AND WILD
Residents of the following areas may apply for baboon-proof bins: Constantia and Tokai (from Orpen/Spaanschemat/Steenberg Road to the mountain), Da Gama, Welcome Glen, Glencarn, Kommetjie, Scarborough, Misty Cliffs (along Plateau Road), Simon’s Town, Ocean View, Capri and Gordon’s Bay (upper roads along the mountain).

Apply by completing the Services and Infrastructure Department’s application form which is obtainable from all municipal offices or at http://www.capetown.gov.za/en/Solidwaste2/Pages/default.aspx (click on ‘Forms’, then on ‘Service Agreement Form’).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BABOONS GO TO
http://www.capenature.co.za
http://www.humanwildlifesolutions.com/
http://www.baboons.org.za/

REPORTING HOTLINE:
071 588 6540 (Cape Town) or 021 957 4725 (extension 2413061 - Gordon’s Bay)

CALL CENTRE:
0860 103 089