



Photo: Richard Voges

Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand

Monthly Report

July 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

TABLE OF CONTENTS:..... 2

1 INTRODUCTION 3

2 VOËLKLIP TROOP 3

In Town Statistics 3

Incidents that Affected management 4

2.1.1 Hermanus Heights & Golf Course 4

2.1.2 Voëlkliip & Fernkloof 4

Births and Deaths..... 4

Recommendations 6

3 PRINGLE BAY TROOP..... 6

In Town Statistics 6

Incidents that Affected management 7

Births and Deaths..... 8

Recommendations 8

4 GENERAL COMMENTS..... 9

Population Characteristics..... 9

Hotline Data 9

Percentage Time Out of Town 11

5 CONCLUSION 12

1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 31 July 2020. Management of the Voëlklip Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop are discussed. During this month the use of Virtual Fence continued as the primary method of managing the Voëlklip Troop, but paintball markers still continued to be used for backup. Management of the Pringle Bay Troop continued through the use of paintball markers only. The Voëlklip Troop's time out of town was 98.8% in July.

The Vogelgat troop continues to enter town along the eastern avenues of Hermanus. A decrease in the number of hotline calls indicate a slight decrease in the troop's presence in the urban environment, while a couple of reported raids indicate the raiding behaviour of a few lone individuals, rather than the whole troop. HWS is currently not mandated to manage this troop, but when resources allow (when the Voëlklip Troop is out of town), the baboon rangers assist in moving them back to their natural environment. Management of this troop will commence in August 2020.

The Pringle Bay troop continues to sleep predominantly at the Professor Sleep Site, but have also shown an increase in the use of the Pringle Peak sleep site this month. The Professor Sleep Site, in particular, provided the baboons with very easy access to the urban environment. As a result, with the baboons often raided town during times when the rangers were not on duty (early mornings and late evenings). The Hangklip Troop moved north again this month, overlapping into the Pringle Bay Troop's home range. This had the effect of pushing the Pringle Bay Troop into town. The combined effect of this, and the baboons sleeping close to town, resulted in the Pringle Bay Troop's percentage time out of town decreased from 88.0% in June to 84.2.0% in July.

2 VOËLKLIP TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- During July, the troop spent 98.8% of its time out of town, a slight increase from 97.9% in June.
- Time out of town for individuals decreased from 98.4% in June to 94.0% in July.
- The troop slept predominantly at the western sleeping sites, mostly sleeping at the Hermanus Heights Sleep Site. On 28 July the troop was split between Hermanus Heights and Platteklip sleep sites.
- During July, the Voëlklip Troop entered the urban area on five occasions. The troop entered town via

Voëlklip suburb on three occasions, while entering town via Fernkloof and Hermanus Heights on a single occasion each.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

2.1.1 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- Two house raids (one occupied) were reported in Hermanus Heights suburb, one in Selkirk Street and one in Fairways Avenue, while a total of six bin raids were reported, four in Waboom Street and two in Raed-na-Gael Street.

2.1.2 VOËLKLIP & FERNKLOOF

- Four house raids (one occupied) and one bin raid were reported for Voëlklip suburb. Three of the house raids occurred on 9th street and one on 7th street. One house raid in Contour road was reported for Fernkloof suburb.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded during July 2020.



Figure 1: GPS locations of the Voëlklip Troop as determined by the GPS collar during July 2020.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																		
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																
OVERSTRAND		1 In urban area	4 Attacking pets	7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																														
BABOON TROOP:	VOËLKLIP	2 Raid bins	5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8 Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																														
MONTH: July	YEAR: 2020	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	31	TOTAL	
Troop		1	1	1	1,1					1				1			6				1,1				6		1			1,1				
VKM2 ALPHA	M																																	
VGM1 BLUE TAG	M			1										2,1													2							
VKM5 RED TAG	M																																	
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F			1									2									1				1								
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F			1																						1								
UniD Male	M																	1																
UniD Males	M																																	
UniD Females	F			1,1		1												1,1				1				5,1				1	1,1,1			
UniD Female	F			1,6														1				1					1,1		1,1	1,1				
UniD Individuals																5										1								
UniD Juvs				1,1		1																				1								
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS		
Troop			65	26	25	72																											3,77	
Individuals		6,0		108		19								115		42		37	38								186	63	135		111	118	84	18,63
Roost:	AM	12	10	9	12	8	9	1	3	18	2	18	18	?	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	4	9	13	9	?	?	18+4	3	18			
Roost:	PM	8	6	12	6	9	1	3	18	18	18	2	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2	18	18	4	9	13	10	6	4	18+4	3	18	18	
Roost Sites		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													
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25																		
		16	17	18	19	20																												
		21	22	23	24	25																												
ID Features of Baboons																																		
General remarks																																		

Figure 2: The Voëlklip Troop raid sheet for July 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings in suburbs affected by baboons. This will reduce the attractant value of the waste to baboons. This is especially important for the area north of the Main Road in Voëlklip suburb, which is close to the mountainside. Here waste is currently collected at around midday.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- **Refuse bags** should not be left lying open on the sidewalk, easily available to baboons.
- Ripening **fruit on fruit trees** in baboon-affected areas should be harvested to remove this attractant for baboons.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon-proofed. Baboon-proofing of all domestic vegetable gardens in baboon-affected areas will reduce baboon incursions into the suburbs.
- There are many **tall pine and bluegum trees** on the Hermanus Golf Course that provide ideal sleep sites for baboons, particularly in winter. If many of these trees (particularly pines) could be removed it would greatly reduce the baboons' incentive to sleep in town.
- Many house owners leave their **doors and windows open** by day and do not have burglar bars. Residents should be made aware that easy access to food attracts baboons into the area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

3 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The Pringle Bay Troop spent 84.2% of its time out of town in July.
- Time out of town for individuals was 99.0%.
- The troop continues predominantly to use the Professor sleep site.
- The troop entered town on 26 occasions during July.



Figure 3: GPS locations of the Pringle Bay Troop as determined by the GPS collar during July 2020.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- Five house raids were recorded in July. Individuals gained access via open doors and windows.
- As has been the trend over the past few months, the troop continued mostly to use the Professor Sleep Site. Because the sleep site is very close to town, the baboons often gained easy access to town when sleeping here.
- The Hangklip Troop's presence continued to affect the Pringle Bay Troop's movements, often pushing it to the northern parts of its home range. The Hangklip Troop was observed around Pringle Bay on three occasions during July.
- The Pringle Bay Troop seemed to push to town more actively this month. This was likely a seasonal change, in addition to pressure from the south by the Hangklip Troop. With the arrival of winter, and a reduced availability of natural food in the mountains, the lower lying areas of town were much more attractive to the baboons.
- Two incidents occurred in which dogs attacked baboons while the baboons were on residential property. Both baboons received veterinary treatment and were released.

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SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/attack/stealing food																										
BABOON TROOP:	PRINGLE BAY	2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																										
MONTH: July	YEAR: 2020	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	31	TOTAL
Troop		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1,5	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	26
PBM1	M																							1	1	1	1					1	
PBF1	F																																0
PBF2	F																																0
UnID Male	M																						1									1	
UnID Males	M																																0
UnID Females	F																																0
UnID Female	F							5	5													5			1								4
UnID Individuals																																	0
UnID Juveniles				5												1									1	5							4
		TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																													HRS		
Troop	15,8	300	60	240	63	180	30	187	60	90	40	180	50	60	56	90	210	180		48	30	120	60	240	90	120		107	70			49,35	
Individuals	1,0															120							60										3,00
Roost:	AM	2	1	1	1	1	5	4	4	1	6	?	6	5	4	4	1	1	1	6	1	1	6	1	1	4	4	1	1	1	6	4	
Roost:	PM	1	1	1	1	5	4	4	1	6	4	?	5	4	6	1	1	1	6	?	1	6	1	1	4	4	1	1	1	6	4	4	
Roost Sites		1 Professor			2 Hangklip			3 Axel Kop			4 Pringle Peak			5 Twee Susters																			
		6 Lemoenkop			7			8			9			10																			
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks		Three new infants seen in July (1st, 15th and 24th of Julv). Infant seen on 24th of July was however deceased upon first observation.																															

Figure 4: The Pringle Bay Troop raid sheet for July 2020.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- Three births and one death was recorded for July 2020. The infant that was born on 24 July 2020 was dead upon first inspection. The death is likely associated with the dog attack the mother experienced on the 20th of July.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early morning in Pringle Bay. This will reduce the attractant value and accessibility of the waste to baboons.
- All bins should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- **Refuse bags** should not be left lying on the sidewalk where they easily available to baboons.
- The **waste collection point (bin cage)** at the entrance to Pringle Bay should be sufficiently secured/enclosed to prevent baboons and other wildlife gaining access to the waste. This should be collected by solid waste regularly to prevent the waste becoming unmanageable, particularly during the holiday season and long weekends. Waste should not be left outside this collection point (bin cage), because it is a major attractant to baboons.
- Residents should ensure all **windows and doors are closed** when baboons are in the Pringle Bay urban area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

4 GENERAL COMMENTS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

No births or deaths were recorded in the Voëlklip troop. Three births were recorded in the Pringle Bay troop and one death. The infants were seen on 01, 15 and 24 July 2020 consecutively. The infant born on 24 July 2020 was however dead upon first inspection. It's death is likely due to the dog attack its mother suffered on 20 July. The Voëlklip troop thus remains at 29 individuals, while the Pringle Bay troop has increased to 18 individuals. The compositions of the two managed troops can be seen in the Table 1 below.

TROOP	OCTOBER	JULY 2020			Total observed Births (1 July 2020 to Present)	Total observed Deaths (1 July 2020 to Present)	Total Migrations (1 July 2020 to Present)
	2019	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pringle Bay	16	3	1	0	3	1	0
TOTAL	45	3	1	0	3	1	0

Table 1: Population data for the two managed troops in the Overstrand in July 2020. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops and are accommodated in the troop population totals.

Deaths	July 2020	TOTAL (since July 2020)
Management	0	0
Human Induced (HID)	1	1
<i>Direct **</i>	1	1
<i>Indirect ***</i>	0	0
Natural	0	0
Unknown	0	0
TOTAL DEATHS	1	1

Table 2: Causes of baboon deaths since October 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

During July 2020 there was a total of 88 hotline calls, 78 of which were raid-related calls received from

troops raiding in Hermanus. There was a 57% increase in the number of calls this month, compared to June. This is due to a significant increase in calls from Voëlklip, Fernkloof and Hermanus Heights. Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate using another system of reporting raids. In future all residents in the Overstrand are requested to report all baboon incidents on the new HWS Baboon Hotline number, 0720280008.

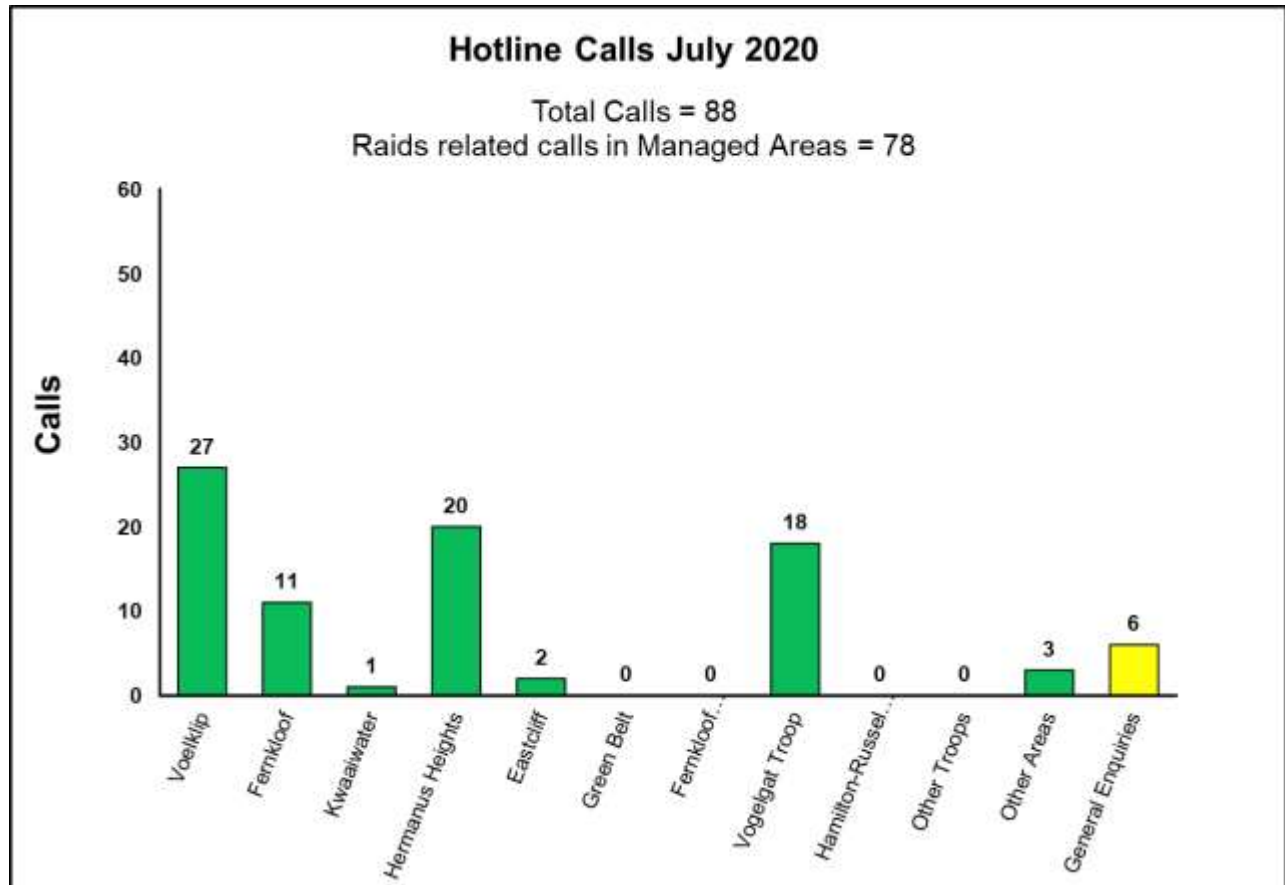


Figure 5: Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for July 2020. Raid-related hotline calls are calls reporting managed baboons in urban areas. Managed areas are those areas in which managed baboon troops raid. Other Areas, represent those areas beyond the urban edge or the range of managed baboons.

There was a slight decrease in the number of hotline calls which reported raids by the Vogelgat Troop, from 20 in June to 18 in July. Thirteen of these calls were for the troop in the urban area, while three reported the presence of a lone male in the urban area. Two house raids were reported. The overwhelming majority of hotline calls during July was again to report baboons in the urban area (78%). Concerningly, eleven occupied house raids were reported during July, up from only three during June. All occupied house raids except for one, were by individuals from the Voëlklip troop. The remaining one was an individual female baboon from the Vogelgat troop.

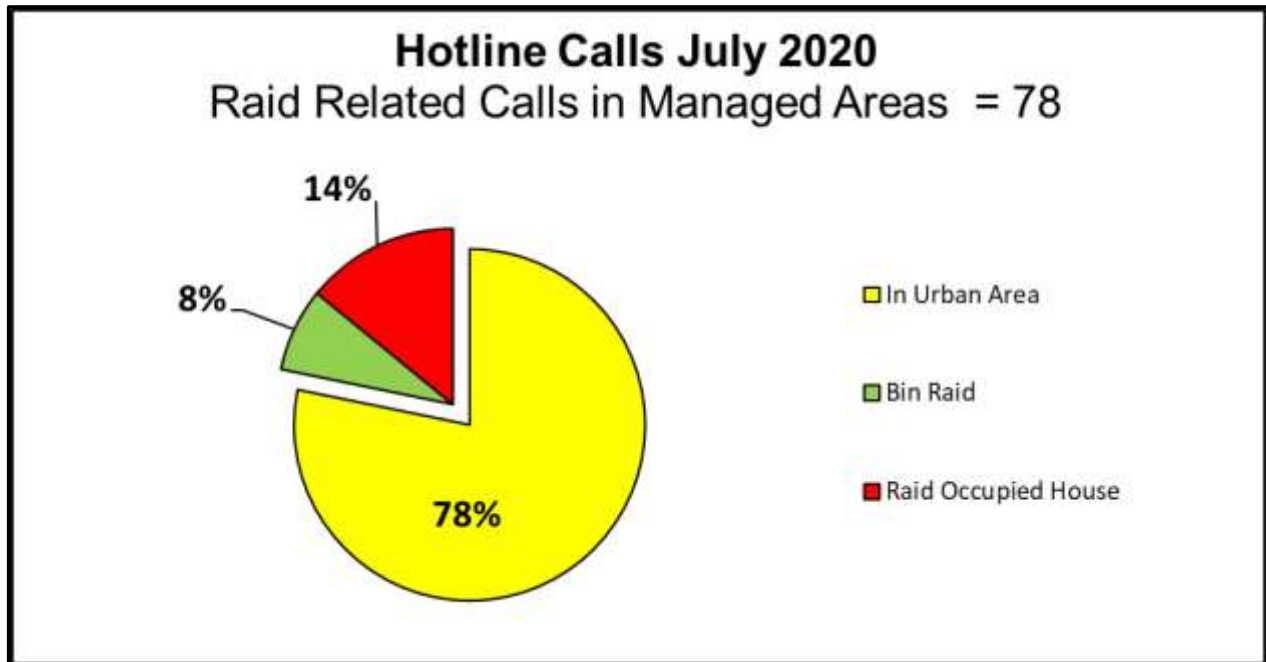


Figure 6: Composition of raid-related hotline calls during July 2020. Note this graph represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of raids by baboons.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During July 2020, the average time out of town for the troops was 91.5% and 96.5% for individuals. Individual time in town is only counted if individuals or small groups of baboons enter the urban area alone. These data are counted separately from when the whole troop enters the urban area.

Table 3: Percentage time the Voëklip and Pringle Bay Troops and individuals spent out of town during July 2020.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN	TROOP	INDIVIDUAL
Voëklip Troop	98,8	94
Pringle Bay Troop	84.2	99.0
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	91.5	96.5

5 CONCLUSION

Low temperatures with periods of high rainfall and strong wind persisted during the month of July. Although the baboons generally push harder to enter town during winter to gain access to Human Derived Foods (HDF's), the Voëlklip troop still spent a high percentage of time out of town (98.8%). The amount of time spent in town by the troop as a whole, almost halved in July, but the time spent in town by individuals increased significantly. When an individual or two enter town, the focus remains on keeping the majority of the troop out of town and therefore few or no staff are allocated to managing the few individuals in town. These individuals may therefore spend long periods of time in town before being pushed out.

The Pringle Bay Troop predominantly continued to use its southern sleep sites closest to town in July. The Hangklip Troop was present around Pringle Bay on multiple occasions this month, causing the Pringle Bay troop to move further north and consequently venture into town. House raids in the area are still common and baboons easily gain access to houses via open doors or windows.

Residents in suburbs affected by baboons are urged to play a role in preventing baboons pushing to town on a regular basis. This includes keeping windows and doors closed when the baboons are in town, not leaving food in locations visible to baboons, improving waste management, baboon-proofing vegetable gardens and removing fruit from fruit trees.

Dr Phil Richardson

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