

HOW CAN YOU HELP MANAGE BABOONS

If baboons gain access to your home it is important to remain calm and to not block their exit route.

- Never approach, corner or trap baboons inside- when frightened, they can create an awful mess that is tough to clean up.
- To coax a stubborn baboon out of your house, try using a water spray bottle (never use anything stronger than water, as they may react negatively).

The best way to deal with an intruder is to be passive. If he senses that you are ignoring him, he has no reason for fear and aggressive. Do not turn your eyes towards him (avoid eye contact). Rather turn your body away, sit in a chair to appear less threatening, or leave the room slowly.

It is important that the baboon has an escape route. If there isn't one, gently back up and open a window or door, then make sure you are not obstructing the escape path and leave the room or the house.

Never try to take back anything he may have grabbed.

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 baboons; to poison, trap, hurt or kill a baboon by driving with the intent to kill hunt by shooting at baboons using a pellet gun, catapult, bow-and-arrow, stoning, setting your dog on them, or use a weapon of any kind in order to injure a baboon or keep a baboon in captivity without a permit.

CONTACT



For further information and assistance with the removal of problem baboons:

**Cape Nature
Conservation, George
Tel. 044 802 5300**

BABOONS



Baboons are highly adaptive omnivorous primates that have learnt to share their territory with others. One way which they have adapted is to take their food from human habitats.

Baboons are not usually aggressive but when cornered or threatened, can become extremely dangerous animals that can pose a threat to, especially, small children and pets.

It is important that we find a means of harmonious co-existence with baboons. With tolerance and patience, residents can help manage baboons by making their properties less attractive.

BABOON TROOP STRUCTURE

Baboon troops vary in size from 12 to 150 individuals, sometimes splitting into sub-troops as they forage for food. A troop has a strong hierarchical systems with each individual contributing to the working of the whole group.

Female baboons never leave their birth troop, forming the strong core. Males, leave the troop when sexually mature to find unrelated females. These males are known as transient/dispersing males.

THE USE OF FIREARMS IN NATURE'S VALLEY IS ILLEGAL.

If a single male raids your property, it is very likely a transient male who will move on quickly, depending on how attractive your property is.

Removal of a transient or 'alpha male' from a troop can often cause more harm than good. The loss of transient males reduce the genetic pool of the troop and can have detrimental impacts on the viability and health of the troop. The loss of an 'alpha' male triggers infighting among young males; males often impregnating as many females as possible to show dominance. The new Alpha will also kill all infants at the start of his reign.



DO NOT FEED BABOONS!

the fines for this is R500.00



HOW CAN YOU HELP MANAGE BABOONS

- Keep rubbish secure in a baboon-proof bin or stored in the garage until collection.
- Do not leave food on display in your house (e.g. fruit bowl on a window sill).
- Indigenous gardens do not attract baboon as their 'delicacies' can be found in natural habitats
- Vegetable gardens, compost heaps and fruit trees are, however, very attractive to baboons. Compost should be contained in composting bins.
- Windows and doors should be closed when you go out. When at home they should not have openings wider than 8cm.