



Special Bulletin

9 November 2018

Baboon Activity on the Estate

It is of great concern that there has been an increase in baboon related incidents on the estate in recent weeks. We take this matter very seriously as baboons learn bad habits from one another and the problem can very quickly escalate.

Habituated baboons are dangerous animals that can harm people.

Baboons can transmit diseases to humans and vice versa.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/18/2/pdfs/11-1309.pdf>

Baboons can be very destructive to our homes and property and it is proven they can affect the value of property if the situation is out of control.

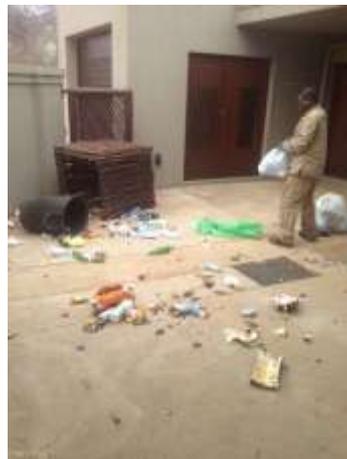


Problem baboons cannot easily be relocated and most often have to be destroyed.

Luckily, most baboons on Raptors are still scared of humans and do not display brazen raiding behaviour as is the case on other estates and in Cape Town where this issue has become totally out of control. Baboon management in Cape Town, now costs the city around 8 million rand per annum!

In our opinion, most baboon problems on the estate are related to **BAD WASTE MANAGEMENT** and the problem can easily be prevented if managed correctly.

The biggest culprit of the baboon incidents are waste bins which have not been secured effectively against animal activity.



The estate rules make provision for this, and it is each member's responsibility to ensure their waste bins are secured sufficiently. Each successful raid by baboons teaches them more tricks, and at the end of the day, all the homes are at risk of being vandalised.

We have tasked the Estate team to do a survey on all homes and to determine whether each home complies with this rule.

Whilst the onus is on the home owner to ensure that your waste is correctly stored, our managers are here to advise you.

Residents who do not cooperate, will be requested to rectify their waste disposal areas within a few days of their home being identified. If the member refuses to cooperate, the HOA will intercede, make the requested changes to the waste disposal site and have their levy accounts charged accordingly. Remember, you are putting other members homes at risk by not managing your own waste.

You can assist us by pre-empting this punitive approach by modifying your own waste bins in order to make them more secure. Herewith are some examples taken off the web from methods currently being used in Cape Town.



Waste bags should be out of sight to prevent visual and olfactory contact. Modified wheelie bins are ideal but they should also be kept in a lock up secure cage. Bags, in a cage alone, are visually attractive and baboons smell them which is also major attractant.

DO NOT LEAVE FOOD, ESPECIALLY FRUIT ON DISPLAY IN YOUR DWELLING.

FEEDING OF ANY ANIMALS AND BIRDS ALSO ATTRACTS BABOONS. DON'T DO IT!

These measures will be of benefit to our community, ensuring Raptors is a great investment and a happy place to live.

What to do if a primate enters your home and you are there.

Do not panic try to be calm and work quickly. If there are children in the room get them out asap.

Where possible, open all doors and windows of that room or area leading to outside, close any doors that may be leading back into the house or other parts of the house from that area. This is very important they need to have an escape route.

Make a noise when you have doors or windows open for them to escape out of. They may be disorientated but will eventually find the exit as they will be panicking.

If they have found food, it is very important to make sure you are not trapping them in one area. Ensure they have an escape route, then from a distance in the house behind another door with it open only a crack, make a noise at them. This works most of the time will for monkeys. Baboons are not always scared off as easily.

A trapped primate is very dangerous and will attack to defend itself.

If none of the above works then contact the Estate Management for assistance on 071 675 2525.

THE Danger
Animals that
scam-feed
from humans
can turn into
problems.

PARKS PROTOCOL ■



The hand that FEEDS

Animals soon learn to take advantage of food scraps and offerings. Here's why you should **not** feed them. **By Romi Boom**

Wild animals are one of the major drawcards to our parks and nature reserves. Some visitors try to lure them closer by offering food, either to take selfies or in the hope of

bagging an award-winning photo. Even if they're cute, appear hungry and are seemingly harmless, you are doing the animals no favour. Your good intent will upset the balance of nature and may facilitate the animal's death.



Baboons are adept at opening doors, so make sure food is under lock and key.

Human food isn't good for animals.

People food, often highly processed, is not nutritious for animals and may contain pesticides. This could cause serious health issues such as disease and reduce their ability to bear offspring. A deformity called 'angel wing' affects waterfowl such as ducks and geese that are fed a high-calorie diet comprising white bread, popcorn and crackers.

Wild animals fed by humans become dependent on it.

If offered, animals will take an easy handout instead of the hard work it takes to survive. Birth and fertility rates depend on the natural food supply. Procreation increases when animals are fed but, as soon as the food supply fluctuates, they will suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

Animals lose their natural fear of people.

Large, potentially dangerous animals become too comfortable in the presence

of people if they associate them with food. When wild animals stop fearing humans, poaching is facilitated.

Familiarity breeds contempt. Wild animals that gather for food handouts become a nuisance at best and a safety risk at worst. Unnatural crowding and competition increase the chances of fighting and injury among animals, as well as aggressive behaviour towards humans.

Feeding wildlife from or near vehicles endangers animals, humans and property.

If wild animals associate vehicles with easy pickings, they may try to enter. In Yosemite National Park in the USA, in one year, more than 1 100 vehicles were broken into by black bears. Feeding wild animals on the road increases the risk of their being run over because they have a false sense of security near vehicles. Opportunistic animals may congest the roads, even causing accidents.

Wildlife that depend on humans for food can spread disease. This may be transmitted to humans and pets.

Wild animals are vulnerable to human diseases. By handing out food you have touched, bacteria present on your hands are transferred.

Before you reach out with food in your hand, consider that your intended kindness will likely have disastrous effects. To save the biodiversity in our parks and nature reserves, visitors should resist the temptation to feed animals and birds. Enjoy your sightings and do not interfere. Simply by visiting and paying your conservation fees, you are helping to save their home. 🌿

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- When visiting parks and nature reserves, clean up after yourself and follow the rules regarding wildlife.
- Encourage others to do the same.
- Make sure plastic food wrap is rinsed and secured in a tied bag or securely covered garbage can.