

KEEP BABOONS OUT OF YOUR BINS:

Recent tests (June 2010) show that, baboons:

1 - CAN open 'baboon-proof' latches (A)



2 - CANNOT open these latches if they are locked (B & C)



NB Secure bin upright & lock for best baboon-proofing



Baboons are **WILD** and must be treated with **RESPECT**

Residents of the following areas may apply for baboon-proof bins: Constantia and Tokai (from Orpen/Spaanschemat Road to the mountain), Da Gama, Welcome Glen, Glencairn, Kommetjie, Scarborough, Misty Cliffs (along Plateau Road), Simon's Town, Ocean View, Capri.

Application must be made by completing the Services and Infrastructure Directorate application form which is obtainable from all municipal offices.

For further information on baboons go to, <http://www.capetown.gov.za/en/EnvironmentalResourceManagement/projects/BiodMagementConserv/Pages/BaboonsAreWildAnimals.aspx>

Reporting Hotline:

071 588 6540



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South African NATIONAL PARKS

Solid Waste Management Call centre number

0860 103 089



Solid Waste Management **BABOON AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Irresponsible human behaviour spells a **DEATH SENTENCE** for **BABOONS**

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 need to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near known baboon ranges.

There are fourteen troops of chacma baboons living on the Cape Peninsula comprising approximately 450 animals, of which 160 live in the Tokai Forest.

The progressive re-establishment of fynbos in the Tokai area may cause the baboons living there to range further into the suburbs in search of food.

Left to their own devices, baboons will avoid humans. Only when they feel threatened or cornered will they become potentially dangerous.

In all urban fringe areas, confrontation is a certainty if humans don't restrict the baboons' access to easy foraging.

WHY BABOONS COME TO SUBURBIA



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 suburbia, 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 suburbia is more rewarding, especially on garbage collection day.

THINGS TO REMEMBER 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 to the scenes of successful sorties.



THINGS THAT ATTRACT BABOONS



Baboons are highly inquisitive creatures and will investigate anything that might contain food.

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.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Making your premises unappealing to baboons is the best defence. Institute as many of the following deterrents as possible:

- Electrified perimeter fencing is the best defence, but it must be specifically installed to keep baboons at bay.
- Install electrified barriers under the eaves to prevent baboons climbing onto the roof, especially if it is thatch.
- Place security cameras, security system sensors and television antennae in protective housings or a safe place like the roof cavity.
- Vegetable gardens and compost heaps must be fully enclosed or surrounded by an electric fence.
- Don't plant fruit trees.
- Cultivate indigenous plants; your garden will be far less attractive to baboons.
- Feeding birds and squirrels also attracts baboons.



SPECIFIC PRECAUTIONS

Securing your house:

- Install burglar bars and security gates with bars no more 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 installed to prevent baboons lifting them off their tracks.
- Only feed your pets inside and conceal their food when they are not eating.



WHEN BABOONS ARE IN THE AREA

DO...

- lock all doors and secure all windows.
- make sure there is nothing left lying around that might attract them to your property.
- if you come face to face with a baboon in your garden or house, stand still and remain calm. Sudden movements may alarm the baboon and cause it to attack.
- identify the baboon's escape route and make sure that its path is clear.
- if you need to move out of its way, then back away slowly.
- keep pets out of the way. Even large dogs are no match for a baboon's speed and strength.
- when driving baboons off your property, be determined, decisive and confident.
- baboons hate getting wet. Keep a spray bottle in the house and a hose pipe in the garden. Spray them from a safe distance.
- baboons hate sudden, loud noises like the banging of pots and pans.

DON'T...

- snatch anything back from a baboon. It will fight to hold on to food.
- close a baboon in or trap it in any way.
- threaten infants and juveniles, adults, in particular the alpha male, will protect them with aggression if necessary.



BINS AND BABOONS

Store your bin in a lockable garage or shed. If you can't do this, then:

- Secure your bin to a wall or pole to keep it upright. Baboons have difficulty opening upright bins as their own weight keeps the lid shut.
- Apply for a baboon-proof bin if you qualify for one. They are only supplied to residents in specific areas (see the back page) as they are collected by trucks with modified lifting devices.
- If your area does not qualify for baboon-proof bins, install your own latches, but ensure that they are unlocked on collection day.
- Two latches must be installed. Baboons can access bins with only one latch.

HOW BABOON-PROOF LOCKS WORK

- The latches must be secured with padlocks or clips at all times, as baboons can open unsecured latches.
- The locks have interior release mechanisms. These are activated by steel pins as the bins are lifted by the collection truck, there is no need to leave the bin unlocked.

