



## Overstrand Municipality

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### LATEST FEEDBACK ON BABOON MANAGEMENT

Following on the formulation and finalisation of its Strategic Baboon Management Plan, Overstrand Municipality appointed Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS) as a specialised service provider to manage and control baboons in the area.

For starters, HWS has been monitoring the Voëlklip Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop since the beginning of November 2019.

In their report submitted at the end of November 2019, HWS claims that both the Voëlklip Troop and the Pringle Bay Troop were kept out of town for over 98% of the time.

Based on their observations, HWS also found that the Pringle Bay Troop is probably more habituated to humans and has largely been kept out of town for the past few years with the aid of rangers employed by the local residents' association.

Their conclusion is that Pringle Bay's baboons are more used to feeding out of town and, therefore, respond to management much better than the Voëlklip Troop, which has not been managed for many years and is addicted to human-derived foods.

"Given that there is still a good abundance of fynbos forage available to both these troops of baboons on the mountains and valleys around town, they should be encouraged to continue to feed there without coming to town for a fix of sugar," project manager Dr Phil Richardson said.

"Here the residents of the urban areas can play a huge role in baboon management. Removing sweet smelling fruit from their fruit trees before they ripen, closing doors and windows and securing waste so that it cannot be easily opened or torn apart will all reduce the rewards if the baboons do come to town.

If there are no rewards readily available within the urban area, most baboons would rather not be paintballed or subjected to the scares of the Virtual Fence and stay out of town 100% of the time."

### **BABOON HOTLINE:**

The dedicated hotline number for reporting baboons in the **Voëlklip area is 071 588 6540**

The Pringle Bay Baboon Hotline number is 079 431 5956

- **WHEN TO CALL:**
- To report baboons in the urban areas
- To report baboons on your property
- To report injuries of baboons
- To report incidents of feeding or harming baboons

- **DETAILS:**
- Your name and address
- The specific address where you saw the baboon/s last
- **NUMBER OF BABOONS SEEN**
  - What the baboon was doing (e.g. foraging on the side of the road/ raiding a bin/ entering a house)
    - Take note if you see any ear tags or collars on the baboon/s, and what colour the ear tag is
    - Whether the baboon is in the house/ garden or in the road
- **ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION:**
  - Could you tell if it was a male or female baboon
    - If the baboon raided a house, note whether there were people in the house or not
    - How did the baboon get into the house
    - If you can no longer see the baboon, how long ago did you see it (timeframe) – Please try to report baboons in the urban area immediately
    - If you are reporting an injury, try to assess whether the baboon is an adult or a juvenile and what body part is injured and whether the behaviour of the baboon appears normal
    - If you are reporting a feeding or harming incident, please try to take a video of the incident and gather as much information as you can, pictures of the person/s and/or car/s involved, time, date and place. This information will be passed on to Cape Nature to investigate.

#### WHEN NOT TO CALL HOTLINE:

\* To complain about municipal issues and to make queries about baboon management please contact the Municipality's environmental management services on 028 316 8249.

