

**Photo: Wian van Zyl**

# **Human Wildlife Solutions**

## **Overstrand Monthly Report**

**November 2019**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 to 30 November 2019. Management of the Voëklip Troop in Hermanus and the Pringle Bay Troop in Pringle Bay are discussed. During the period 1 to 7 November, the HWS team were getting to know the terrain utilized by the Voëklip Troop in Hermanus and fitted a GPS radio collar to an adult female to aid in management. Paintball marker management began on 8 November 2019. Full management with paintball markers began on 1 November 2019 in Pringle Bay, where management run by the local community has been active for several years.

## 2 VOËKLIP TROOP

### 2.1 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- During the period 8 – 30 November the troop spent 98.8% of their time out of town.
- Time out of town for individuals was 99.1%.
- The troop predominantly slept at the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kloof (6 nights), Three Dams (7 nights) and Adder Ladder (3 nights) sleep sites. The remaining seven nights the troop slept at Platteklip, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bos Klip and Droë Kloof Sleep Sites. The troop therefore spent 100% of its time sleeping outside of town (Figure 1).
- During November the Voëklip Troop entered the Voëklip suburb, Hermanus Heights and the Golf Course on one occasion each. During October, the Voëklip Troop visited the urban area on at least 14 occasions, compared to three occasions in November 2019.

### 2.2 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

#### 2.2.1 VKM3 (SUB-ADULT MALE)

- During November VKM3 was the individual that most often solicited other individuals to join him and raid the urban area.
- VKM3 broke away from the troop and entered town on five occasions. On four of these occasions, he led only a small group into town. On one occasion, he started off by leading a small group, but this ultimately ended up with the whole troop following and entering the urban area.
- VKM3 showed aggressive behaviour towards a lady walking in the street on 28 November 2019.
- VKM3's raiding behaviour has been escalating over the past two months and is greatly increasing the difficulty of managing the troop, especially when the troop is split into splinter groups.

### 2.2.2 HERMANUS HEIGHTS & GOLF COURSE

- One occupied house raid was recorded. The house was entered through an open window.
- The troop also entered the Golf Course on this day but was prevented from spending the night in the Golf Course.

### 2.2.3 VOËLKLIP

- Two occupied house raids and one bin raid were recorded in Voëlkliip during November.
- On one occasion a member of the public set off a firecracker while the troop was present in Voëlkliip suburb. This caused the baboons to scatter throughout the suburb, making it a lot more difficult for the rangers to locate them and chase them out of town.

### 2.2.4 TAGGING AND COLLARING

- VKF3, an adult female was collared and tagged (with double red tags) on 7 November 2019.
- VKM2, an adult male was collared on 22 November 2019. He is the alpha male. He was not tagged because he has a prominent split lower lip.



**Figure 1:** The Voëlkliip Troop sleep sites (yellow stars), together with VKM2 and VKF3's movements for November 2019. VKM2's radio collar takes a GPS reading every 30 minutes, while VKF3's collar takes GPS readings every ten minutes.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																	
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																															
OVERSTRAND		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	TOTAL	
BABOON TROOP:		VOELKLIP		1 In urban area		4 Attacking pets		7 Threatening behaviou/ attacking/ stealing food																									
MONTH: NOVEMBER		YEAR: 2019		2 Raid bins		5 Raid unoccupied house or vehicle		8 Breaking &Entering/Damaging property																									
				3 Non malicious damage		6 Raid occupied house or vehicle		9 Nocturnal Raiding																									
Troop																																	3
VKM2	M								1		2																						3
VKM3	M																1	1					1				1						6
VKF3 RED TAG	F																	1															2
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																																0
UnID Male	M																														1		2
UnID Males	M																1	1													1		3
UnID Females	F								1.1		1												6										4
UnID Female	F										2																				1		2
UnID Individuals																											6		6				2
UnID Juvs																																	0
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS			
Troop	1.2																																5.10
Individuals	0.9								28		8						31	46															3.88
Roost:	AM								12	12	14	12	4	4	5	5	14	14	12	8	7	12	9	7	4	3	3	5	12	12	13		
Roost:	PM								12	14	12	4	4	5	5	13	14	12	8	5	12	9	7	4	3	3	5	12	12	13	5		
Roost Sites		1	Golf Course				2	Hermanus Heights				3	Platte Klip				4	Adder Ladder				5	Lower Dam										
		6	Upper Dam (North)				7	Upper Dam (South)				8	Middle Dam				9	Droë Kloof				10	Big Titanic										
		11	Small Titanic/ Cave				12	10th Ave Kloof				13	11th Ave Kloof				14	Bos Klip				15											
		16					17					18					19					20											
		21					22					23					24					25											
		26					27					28																					
ID Features of Baboons																																	
General remarks																																	

Figure 2: The Voëlklip Troop raid sheet for November 2019. Active paintball management begun on 8 November 2019.

### 2.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded.

### 2.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early morning 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.
- All bins used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**. Refuse bags should not be left lying openly on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.
- There are many tall pine and bluegum trees on the Hermanus Golf Course that provide ideal sleep sites for baboons, particularly in winter. If these trees could be removed it would greatly reduce the baboons' incentive to sleep in town during winter.
- The majority of houses leave their **doors and windows open** by day and do not have burglar bars. Residents should be made aware that this attracts baboons into the area. Residents should install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible.

### 3 PRINGLE BAY TROOP

#### 3.1 IN TOWN STATISTICS

- The troop spent 98% of time out of town in November. The troop entered town on 17 occasions. On three of these occasions the troop was moving through town either going from the northern side of town to the southern side, or the other way around.
- For individuals, the time out of town was 99.9%.
- The troop mainly used its southern sleep sites (Professor & Hangklip Valley), sleeping there for 24 nights and used its northern sleep site (Rooi Els Mountain) for six nights.

#### 3.2 INCIDENTS THAT AFFECTED MANAGEMENT

- Two unoccupied house raids were recorded in November 2019. On one occasion the baboons gained entry to the house through an open door and on the other, through an open window.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																						
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																																				
SOUTH EAST		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: NOVEMBER	YEAR: 2019	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	TOTAL						
Troop			1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1				1			1	1				1	1		17						
UnId Male	M																						5									1						
UnId Males	M																															0						
UnID Females	F																															0						
UnID Female	F																						5									1						
UnID Individuals													1																			1						
UnID Juveniles																					5											1						
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS								
Troop	2.0		10	20	10		10		20	20	10	10	30	20	10		30				120									80	29				30	30		8.15
Individuals	0.1												15																								0.25	
Roost:	AM	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3						
Roost:	PM	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3							
Roost Sites		1	Professor						2	Hangklip Valley						3	Rooi-Els Mountain						4							5								
		6							7							8							9							10								
ID Features of Baboons																																						
General remarks																																						

Figure 3: The Pringle Bay Troop raid sheet for November 2019.

#### 3.3 BIRTHS AND DEATHS

- No births or deaths were recorded.

### 3.4 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 used in baboon-affected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**. Refuse bags should not be left lying openly on the sidewalk and 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 left here by residents. This should be collected by solid waste collection regularly to prevent the waste becoming unmanageable, particularly during the holiday season. 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

### 4.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- The Voëklip Troop size at the end of November 2019 remained 28. The compositions of the two managed troops can be seen in the Table 1 below.

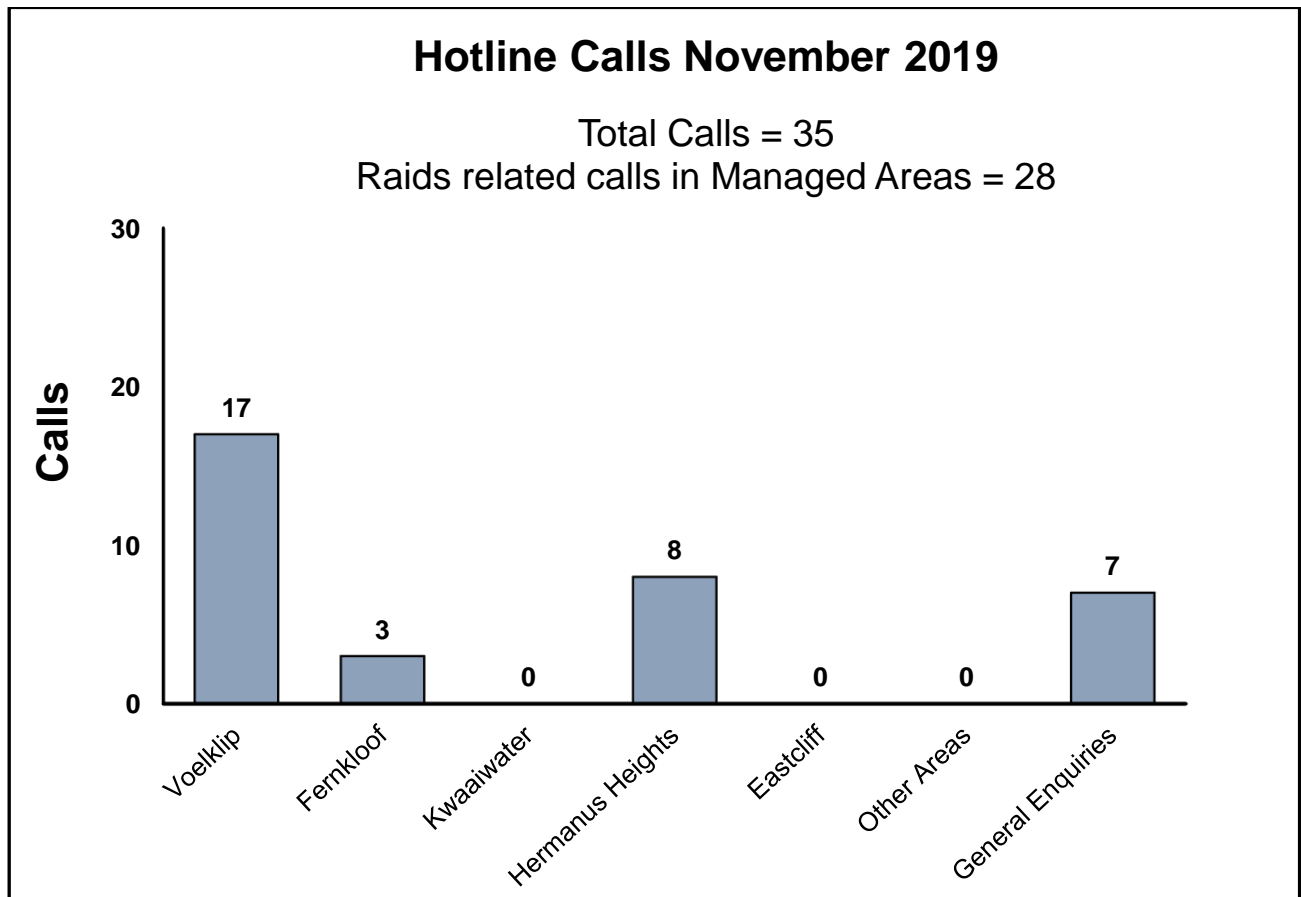
TROOP	OCTOBER 2019 COUNT	NOVEMBER 2019			Total observed Births (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Total observed Deaths (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Total Migrations (7 November to 30 June 2020)
		Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëklip	29	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pringle Bay	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 1:** Population data for the two managed troops in the Overstrand in November 2019. Emigration/Immigration figures show animal movements between troops and are accommodated in the troop population totals.

- The Vogelgat Troop was not seen during November 2019.
- The Hamilton-Russell Troop was reported on the mountainside just above Hermanus Heights on two occasions.
- These two troops are not currently managed by HWS.

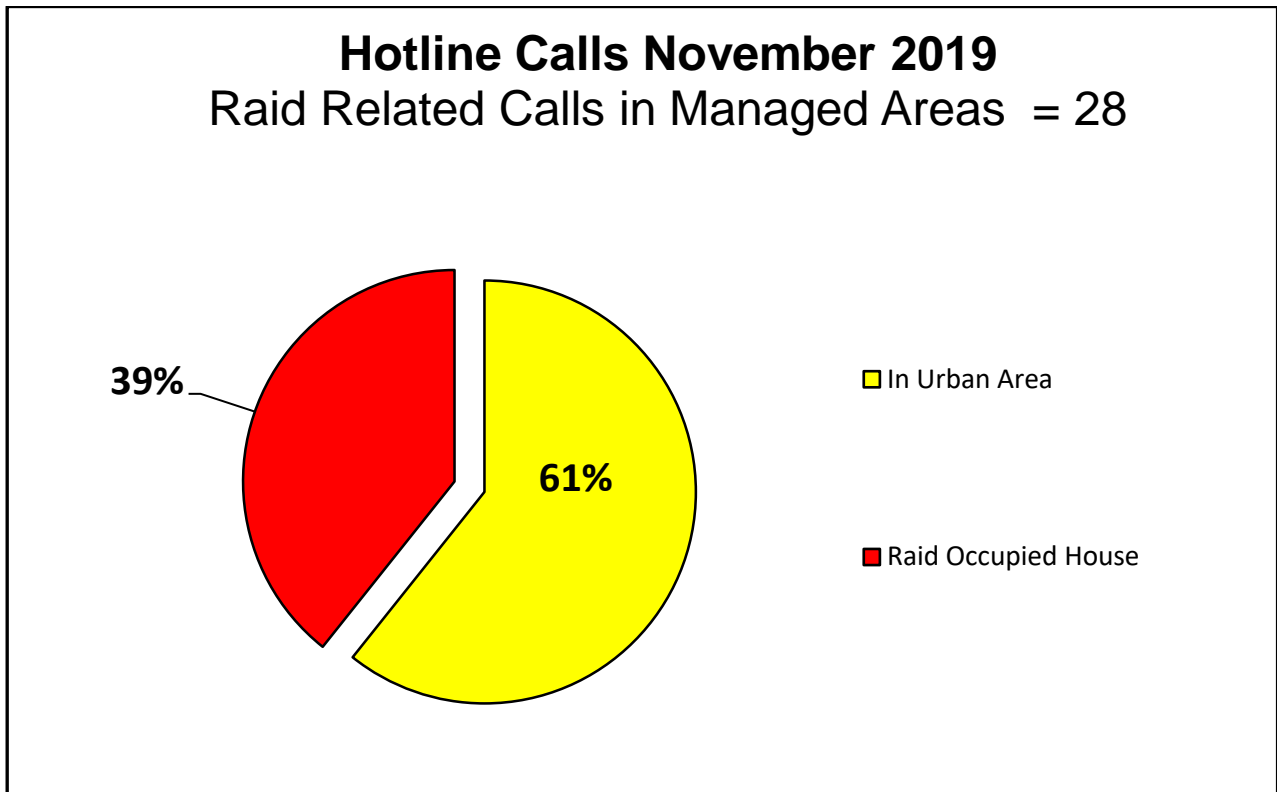
## 4.2 HOTLINE DATA

During November 2019, there was a total of 35 hotline calls, 28 of which were raid-related calls received from managed areas. Hotline calls are for the Hermanus area only, because the Pringle Bay residents operate with another system. The highest number of calls were from Voëlklip suburb, followed by Hermanus Heights.



**Figure 4:** Hotline calls in baboon affected areas of Hermanus for November 2019. 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.





**Figure 5:** Composition of raid-related hotline calls during November 2019. Note this graph represents the composition of hotline calls, not the composition of raids by baboons.

### 4.3 PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

During November 2019, the average time out of town for the troops was 98.4% and 99.5% 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 separate from when the whole troop enters the urban area.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN	TROOP	INDIVIDUAL
Voëklip Troop	98.8	99.1
Pringle Bay Troop	98.0	99.9
Average Percentage Time Out of Town	98.4	99.5

**Table 2:** Percentage time troops and individuals spent out of town during November 2019. The current contract requirement for the Overstrand Municipality is 90% time out of town.

## 5 CONCLUSION

November was the first month that baboon management actively began in Hermanus, but only for the Voëklip Troop. The Hamilton-Russell Troop was seen just above the urban area of Hermanus Heights on two occasions this month. Although the Vogelgat Troop was not seen this month, it was observed within the urban area in October. These two troops are not currently managed in Hermanus, but it may become

necessary to use the Virtual Fence on them occasionally to keep them out of the urban area.

Both the Voëklip Troop and the Pringle Bay Troop were kept out of town for over 98% of the time. Although the Pringle Bay Troop is probably more habituated to humans, it has largely been kept out of town for the past few years, using rangers employed by the local residents' association. These baboons are more used to feeding out of town, and therefore respond to management much better than the Voëklip Troop, which has not been managed for many years, and addicted to human derived foods (HDF's).

With November being early summer, there was still a good abundance of fynbos forage available to both these troops of baboons on the mountains and valleys around town. This is where the majority of their feeding was taking place, and they must just be encouraged to continue to feed there throughout the day, without coming to town for a fix of sugar. 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, 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, 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. This is the target that HWS is aiming at – all baboon troops 100% time out of town. It is not an impossible task, but it does require active collaboration from the residents of these urban areas.

Dr Phil Richardson

**HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS**