

Human Wildlife Solutions

Overstrand

Monthly Report

September 2023

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INTRODUCTION

This monthly report covers the period from 1 September to 30 September 2023.

The behaviour of both the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops showed slight improvements from the previous month. Both troops were absent from the urban area for the second consecutive month, with individuals from both troops present in town on only three days during September. Furthermore, the total number of incursions recorded decreased from eleven to three. No bin raids or assertive incursions of any kind were recorded across the eastern Overstrand. Lastly, the number of hotline calls received increased marginally, from eight to twelve.

Although baboon management by HWS in the Overstrand West was discontinued in July 2023, HWS has continued to receive some hotline calls from previously managed areas. These hotline calls were recorded and are presented in this report.

The two other troops managed in the Overstrand East, the Hamilton-Russel and Onrus Troops, were not observed for the third consecutive month.

OVERSTRAND EAST TROOPS

VOËLKLIP TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Troop time out of town remained at 100% during September.
- Time out of town for individuals increased by 1.1% during September, from 98.8% to 99.9%.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
Individuals	99.9	+ 1.1	1	0:29	0:29	00:29	00:29

Table 1. In Town Statistics for the Voëlklip Troop for September 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in September was 11 hours and 52 minutes.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- The Voëlklip Troop was absent from the urban area throughout September.
- Individuals from the Voëlklip Troop entered town on just one day during September. A hotline call was received informing HWS of an individual on Waboom Road. When HWS field staff arrive in Hermanus heights, three unidentified individuals were pushed out of the urban area.
- On 22 September HWS was informed of a baboon that was struck by a car along the Hemel-en-Aarde Road. After informing the Overstrand Municipality the HWS capture team departed to the site of the accident. Enroute to the site, HWS was informed that a civilian, the Manager at High Season Guest Farm, had picked up the injured baboon and had taken

it to the Hermanus Animal Hospital. The injured animal had suffered severe head trauma and was subsequently euthanised. The troop from which this individual originated is unknown.

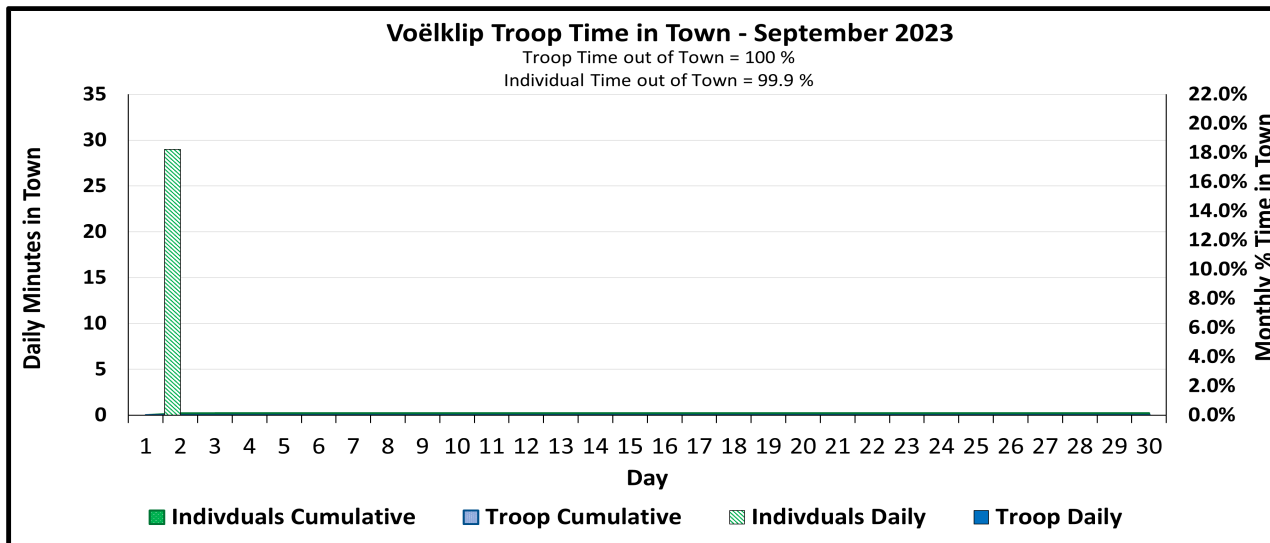


Figure 1. Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Voëklip Troop during September 2023.

HWS: TROOP MONTHLY REPORT																																
SECTOR		CLASSES OF BEHAVIOUR																														
OVERSTRAND		1	In urban area	4	Attacking pets	7	Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																									
BABOON TROOP: Voëklip		2	Raid bins	5	Raid unoccupied house or vehicle	8	Breaking & Entering/Damaging property																									
MONTH: September		3	Non malicious damage	6	Raid occupied house or vehicle	9	Nocturnal Raiding																									
YEAR: 2023																																
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																																
UNKM1	M																															
VKF4 YELLOW TAG	F																															
VKF5 RED TAG	F																															
VKF1 GREEN TAG	F																															
VKF6 ORANGE TAG	F																															
VKF7 PINK TAG	F																															
UnID Male	M																															
UnID Sub-Male																																
UnID Sub-Males	M																															
UnID Males	M																															
UnID Females	F																															
UnID Female	F																															
UnID Individuals			1																												1	
UnID Juveniles																																
		%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS	
Troop		0.0																													0.00	
Individuals		0.1	29																												0.48	
Roost:	AM	2	4	18	18	18	2	21	18	18	18	18	18	4	2	2	18	18	18	4	18	2	2	2	18	2	18	18	18	2		
Roost:	PM	3	18	18	18	18	5	18	18	18	18	18	4	18	2	18	18	18	4	18	2	2	2	18	2	18	18	18	18	2		
Roost Sites		1	Golf Course	2	Heights Dam	3	Green Kloof	4	Platte Klip	5	Adder Ladder	6	Lower Dam	7	Middle Dam	8	Upper Dam	9	Dragon's Back	10	Droe Kloof	11	Blaaie Kloof	12	Big Titanic/Cave	13	Small Titanic	14	10th Ave Kloof	15	11th Ave Kloof	
ID Features of Baboons		16	A-Shape	17	Bos Klip	18	Hermanus Heights	19	Steyn's Kloof	20	In Town	21	Tallie's Kloof	22	Kanonkop	23	BHB Waterfall	24	Rooklip	25	ZigZag	26	9th Avenue Kloof	27	Shade Rock	28	BOSKO	29	Groot Uitkyk	?	Unknown	
General remarks																																

Figure 2. The Voëklip Troop incident sheet for September 2023.

VOGELGAT TROOP

IN TOWN STATISTICS

- Time out of Town for the Troop remained at 100% during September.
- Time out of town for individuals increased from 99.8% to 99.9% during September.

	% Out of Town	% Up or Down from Previous Month	Days Entered	Total Time in Town	Avg Time in Town per day	Max Daily Time in Town	Min Daily Time in Town
Troop	100.0	0.0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:00
Individuals	99.9	+ 0.1	2	0:31	0:31	0:31	0:31

Table 2. In Town Statistics for the Vogelgat Troop for September 2023. Time is expressed in hours and minutes. Average daylength in September was 11 hours and 52 minutes.

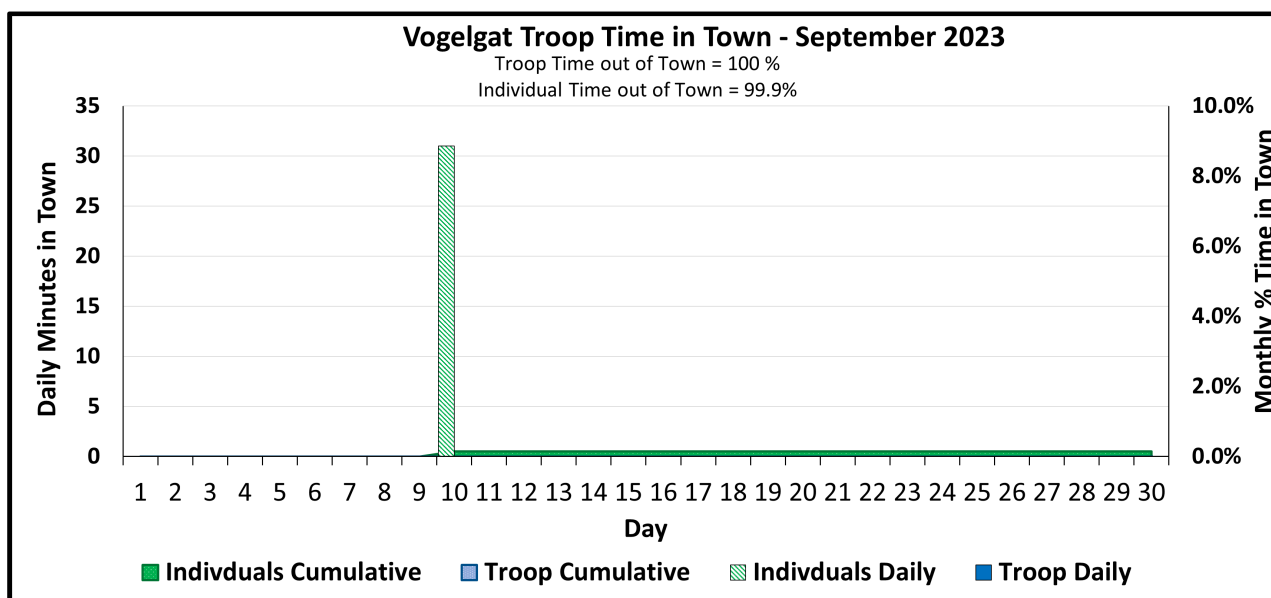


Figure 3. Troop and individual daily time (minutes) in town (bars), and monthly (area) percentage Time in Town by the Vogelgat Troop during September 2023.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- A single adult female was observed in the urban area on 10 September, spending just over 30 minutes in town before being pushed out to the mountains.
- On 17 September a hotline call was received from the Vogelgat Area, near the Petting Zoo along the R43, reporting an injured baboon. After arriving at the location, the HWS capture team observed the wild troop was present, but there was no sign of any injured animal.

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: VOGELGAT		4		5		8																										
MONTH: September		YEAR: 2023		1 In urban area		Attacking pets		7 Threatening behaviour/ attacking/ stealing food																								
		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																										
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																																
UnID Male	M																															
UnID Males	M																															
UnID Females	F																															
UnID Female	F										1																					1
UnID Individual						1																										1
UnID Individuals																																
UnID Juveniles																																
UnID Juvenile																																
	%	TIME SPENT IN TOWN (Minutes)																												HRS		
Troop	0.0																															0.00
Individuals	0.2					*					31																					0.52
Roost:	AM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Roost:	PM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Roost Sites		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	
		Baboon Castle	18th Ave Kloof	11th Ave Kloof	10th Ave Kloof	Uitkyk Punt																										
		Vogelgat Nature Reserve	Halfway Ridge	Bosklip	Groot Uitkyk	1st Kloof																										
		2nd Kloof	3rd Kloof	4th Kloof	17th Avenue Kloof	Waterfall																										
		A Shape	Bitterbiesie	Maanskyknap	Stillwaters	Maanskykbaai SS																										
		Unknown																														
ID Features of Baboons																																
General remarks	Please note that the numbers in red indicate non-urban raids or incursions.																															

Figure 4. The Vogelgat Troop incident sheet for September 2023.

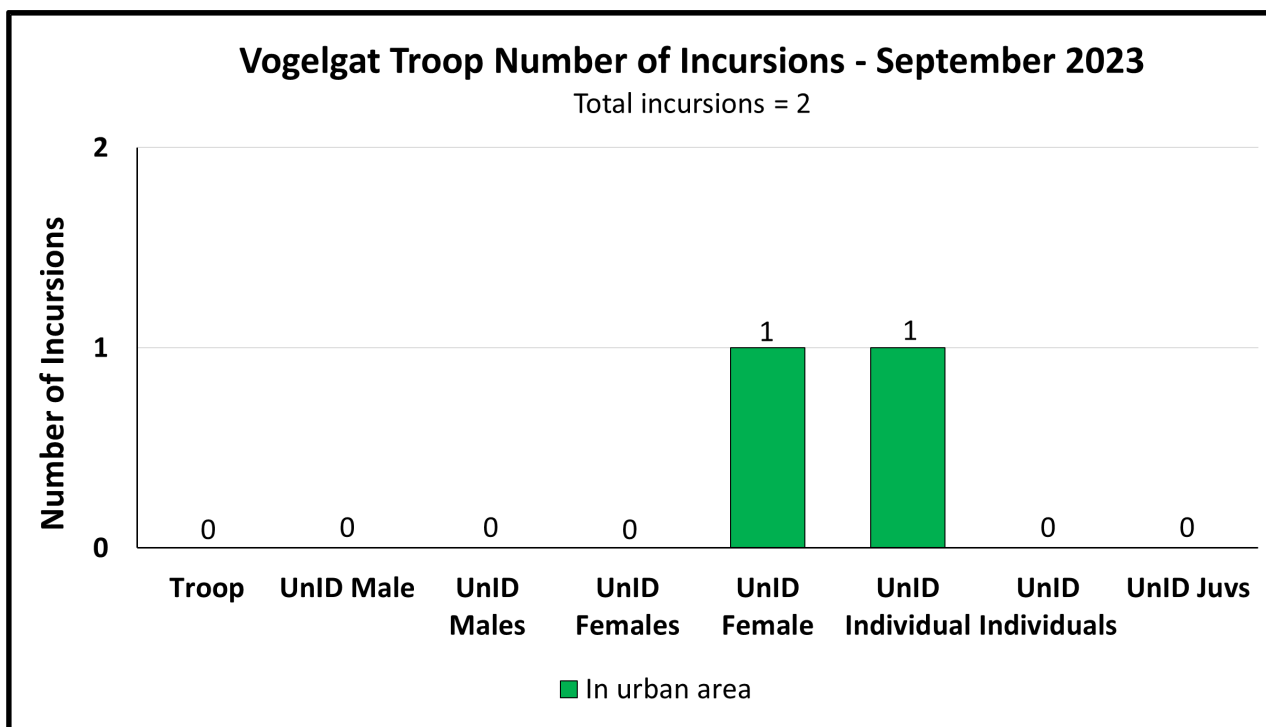


Figure 5. Number of incursions for the Vogelgat Troop and individuals during September 2023.

ONRUS TROOP

- There were no direct observations of the Onrus Troop during September by HWS Staff. There was one hotline call, on 18 September, that reported baboon activity in the vicinity of the cemetery along the R43. This is within the estimated Onrus Troop range. When HWS field staff arrived at the location, there was no sign of the reported baboons.

HAMILTON RUSSEL TROOP

- On 7 September, vocalisations from the Hamilton-Russel Troop were heard originating from the western side of the Boekenhoutbos Waterfall. No other evidence of this troop was recorded during September.

VIRTUAL FENCE

- In the Eastern Overstrand, the Virtual Fence was activated on four days during September.

GENERAL COMMENTS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

No births or deaths were recorded in the managed troops in the Eastern Overstrand during September. One baboon died after being hit by a motor vehicle on 22 September. The location of the incident is outside the known ranges for either the Onrus or Hamilton-Russel Troops. There were no migrations recorded during September.

Troop	October	June	June	June	June	September 2023			Total observed Births (1 September 2023 to 30 September 2023)	Total observed Deaths (1 September 2023 to 30 September 2023)	Total observed Migrations (1 September 2023 to 30 September 2023)
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Births	Deaths	Emigration / Immigration			
Voëlklip	29	29	27	37	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vogelgat	N/A	22*	29	27	27*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Onrus	N/A	N/A	25*	24*	24*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Russel	N/A	N/A	21*	25	25*	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Population data for the managed troops in the Overstrand in September 2023. Emigration /Immigration figures show animal movements between troops. * Troop sizes were estimated, because they were not seen enough to get accurate counts. Note: Troop numbers will be counted twice a year in December and June. Troop numbers are not updated during the year by just counting births and deaths, because these may occur without being observed by field rangers.

Deaths	2019/20 (October - June)	2020/21 (July - June)	2021/22 (July 2021 - June 2022)	2022/23 (July 2022 - June 2023)	2023/24 (July 2023 - June 2024)	September 2023
Management	3	0	1	0	0	0
Human Induced (HID)	1	2	9	10	1	0
Direct *	1	2	8	8	1	0
Indirect **	0	0	1	1	0	0
Natural	2	7	7	4	0	0
Unknown	0	0	2	2	0	0
TOTAL DEATHS	6	9	19	16	1	0

Table 4. Causes of baboon deaths since October 2019; *Deaths caused directly by humans, such as motor vehicle accidents, shooting, poisoning and dogs. **Deaths caused indirectly by humans such as electrocutions and fire.

HOTLINE DATA

A total of twelve hotline calls were received during September (**Table 5**), seven of which originated in managed areas. Three of the hotline calls were received from the Hermanus Heights area, two of which reported baboons in the urban area. The other calls were classed as enquiries and comments on the presence of baboons outside the urban area. Five hotline calls were received concerning unmanaged troops; Hemel en Aarde, Betty’s Bay, Kleinmond, Vogelgat, and Silversands. Please note that the call received from the Vogelgat area concerned a potential injury to a member of the wild troop the lives near Stanford.

Troop	Number of Calls received	Area	Types of Call
Voëlklip Troop	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hermanus Heights (3) Hamilton-Russel (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In urban area (2) Enquiry/Comments (5)
Unmanaged Troops	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hemel en Aarde (1) Kleinmond (2) Betty’s Bay (1) Silversands (1) Vogelgat (1) 	

Table 5. Table summarising Hotline call trends for September 2023.

RECORDED INCURSIONS

There were three incursions recorded during September (**Figure 7**). This was a significant decrease from the eleven recorded during August. Furthermore, these three incursions were all just incidents of individual baboons being in the urban area. Because of this no pie chart is presented this month.

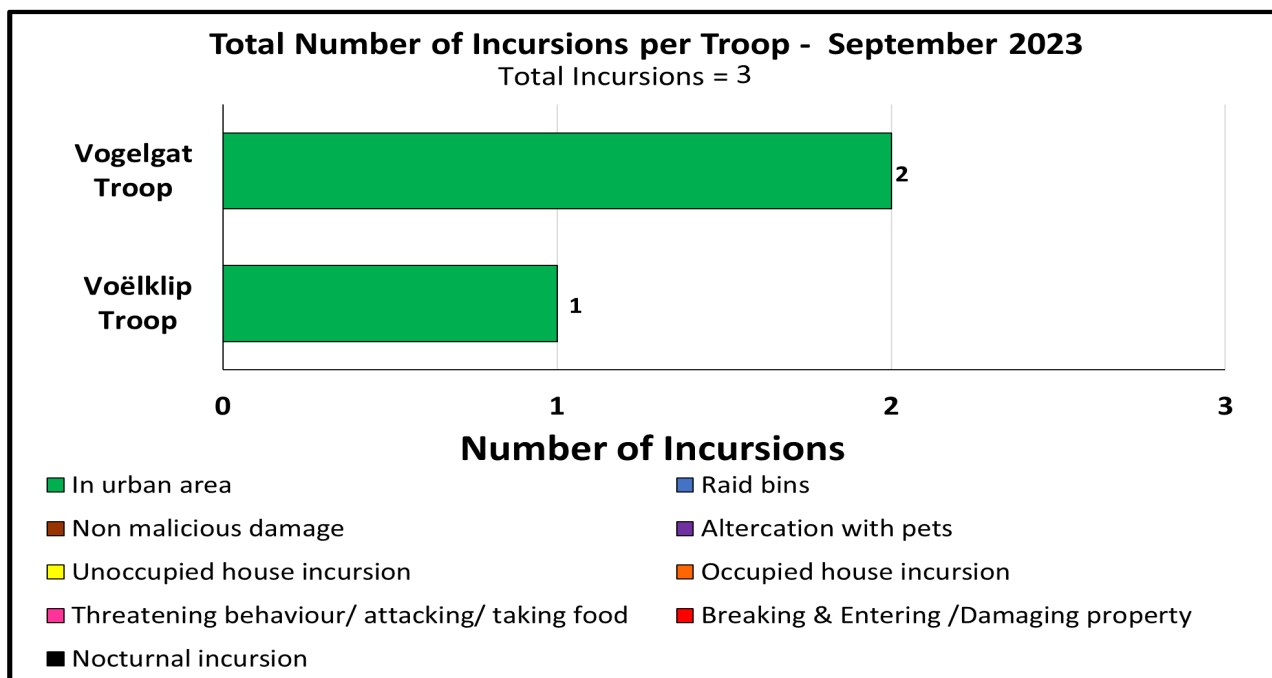


Figure 7. Total observed incursions per troop during September 2023. **Note:** Observed incursions are not hotline related, but are incursions observed by HWS Field Staff.

PERCENTAGE TIME OUT OF TOWN

The average time out of town by troops in the eastern Overstrand during September remained at 100% (**Figure 8**). This marks the second consecutive month in which both troops have been entirely absent from town. The Hamilton-Russel and Onrus Troops continued to be absent from the urban area, and neither troop was observed during September. Individuals from the Voëlklip and Vogelgat troops entered the urban area on three days during September, one and two days respectively.

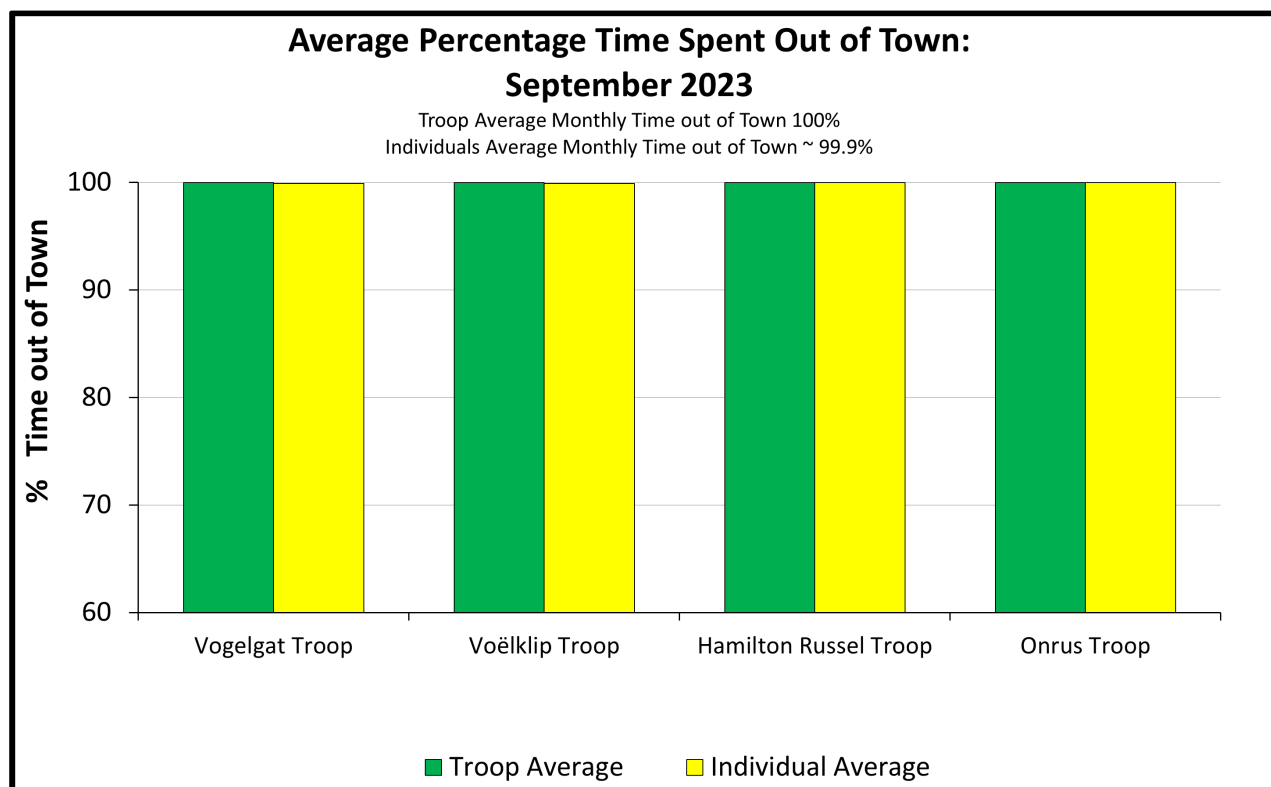


Figure 8. Percentage time the managed baboon troops and individuals spent out of town during September 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Waste and recycling collection should be prioritised** to take place in the early mornings and starting on the edge of town and working inwards.
- Residents should **not** put out their waste **the night before** collection day.
- **Refuse bags** should not be left lying open on the sidewalk and easily available to baboons.
- All bins used in baboon effected areas should be **baboon-proof and locked**.
- **Open vegetable gardens** should be baboon proofed.
- Ripening fruits should be removed from fruiting trees.
- Residents are strongly discouraged from feeding wildlife, including birds. Bird seed is a powerful attractant for baboons.
- Residents are encouraged to record and report the feeding of wildlife to the municipality, CapeNature, or to the baboon hotline (072 028 0008).

CONCLUSION

During September, residents of the Eastern Overstrand experienced a month of very little baboon activity. All four managed troops were absent from the urban area, and only three brief incidents of individuals in town were recorded. These individuals from the Voëlklip and Vogelgat Troops, spent a combined total of only one hour in town over the course of the month. No other incursions of any kind were recorded.

Beyond the urban edge, two injuries to baboons were reported. One baboon, in the Hemel en Aarde Valley, died after being hit by a motor vehicle. Another baboon was apparently injured on the R43 near the petting zoo. Both injuries were to baboons belonging to wild and unmanaged troops. It should be noted that the injury reported near the petting zoo was not corroborated by HWS field staff, because they did not manage to locate any injured baboon when they arrived at the location.

Human Wildlife Solutions