

DATE: NOVEMBER 2021

OVERSTRAND BABOON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – FEEDING OF BABOONS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Overstrand Baboon Management Programme is the mandated responsibility of the Overstrand Municipality (OM) but the Provincial Government through CapeNature (CN) still regulates the feeding of baboons in public areas in accordance with the Wild Animals Regulations (Provincial Notice 955 of 1975), Regulation 42A read with Section 86(1) (d). The two organisations therefore would like to make the following information available.

A) FEEDING OF BABOONS: Many residents enjoy having wildlife in their gardens. In order to protect wildlife and ecosystems from the negative impacts of attaining human derived food, wildlife in general and especially baboons must not be fed. Due to the large amount of sugar, sodium and various preservatives in many human derived food items, the baboon's health is negatively impacted. These easily accessible food items attract the troops into the urban areas. Baboons in urban areas are also exposed to possible harm from dogs, traffic, electric cables, garden poisons and decaying or hazardous refuse. They may suffer long term injuries from pellet guns or other weapons used by frustrated residents. Baboons often cause damage to property and humans may be at risk of injury when holding food items when a baboon approaches. It is best practice not to display foodstuff, and to make use of proven baboon proofing mechanisms to prevent entries into homes.

According to the current Baboon Management Guidelines of the Western Cape, a baboon who continues to break into homes and cause damage to property may be classified as a "damage causing animal". This could lead to the removal of the animal from the troop. Feeding of baboons is illegal. Natural vegetation in protected areas surrounding our urban edge provides a much safer natural and healthy habitat and foraging environment for our baboon troops.

The table below advises on common attractants in residential gardens and how to mitigate against attracting baboons:

COMMON BABOON GARDEN ATTRACTANTS FOR BABOONS	
ITEMS	WHAT YOU CAN DO
Birdfeeders: commercial bird seed, fruit and nectar bottles	Remove fruit, birdseed feeders, and nectar bottles as these are highly desirable to baboons. Rather plant indigenous flowering plants to attract birds all year round. Nectivorous birds are important pollinators to many fynbos plant species and should not become dependent on sugar water bottles as it impacts on the ecosystem. Nectar bottles may harbor bacteria causing suffering to birds. Shallow basins or birdbaths with fresh water are sufficient for birds to bath and drink from daily.
Pet food bowls	Feed pets inside or do not leave cat/dog food bowls outside with food in them.
Compost heaps	A sealed composting container modified to be baboon proof is the best solution. Always cover fresh kitchen scraps with a thick layer of mature compost, soil and cover with black builders' plastic. The black plastic retains heat and moisture and will improve composting time.
Fruit/food put out for wildlife	Do not feed any wildlife, it creates dependency on exotic or human derived foods, negatively impacting on each animal's essential role in the ecosystem.
Food specifically put out for baboons	Feeding baboons is illegal, offenders will be prosecuted.
Fruit and nut trees	It is best to remove fruit and nut trees entirely, alternatively harvesting ripe fruit and/or nuts will deter the baboons but they do not always wait for fruit to ripen.
Vegetable Gardens	Secure within a baboon proof greenhouse-type construction or sturdy wire mesh and poles.
Domestic Waste Management	Utilise an Approved Animal Waste Container (bin) as stipulated in the Overstrand Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMB, 2021). Transgressors will be prosecuted.

In accordance with the Wild Animals Regulations (Provincial Notice 955 of 1975), Regulation 42A(1) read with Section 86(1) (d).

*“42A (1) No person may feed or attempt to feed any baboon (*Papio ursinus ursinus*) or vervet monkey (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) in a built- up area or public place”. The first fine associated with this transgression is R2500 and thereafter No Admission of Guilt (AOG). Read together with Section 86(1)(d) a fine of R40 000 or 1yr or both and a fine of up to 3 times the commercial value of the fauna involved.*

WASTE MANAGEMENT: The Overstrand Municipality’s Integrated Waste Management Bylaw of 2021 stipulates that each home owner or tenant/occupier must use animal proof containers in all problem animal areas and the Municipality may institute legal proceedings against the owner if the following waste management activities are not complied with.

Section 11(5) Visitors that leave before collection day must place their refuse in animal proof containers supplied for the area for that purpose or take their refuse to the nearest waste handling facility as directed by the Municipality;

Section 13(5)(d) receptacles are placed outside the entrance to the premises before 07:00 on the day of the week specified by the Municipality for waste removal and taken back inside before sunset on the same day or such other location or times as required by the Municipality in terms of a written notice to the owner or occupier of the premises.

Section 13(1) The Municipality will collect domestic waste placed in approved domestic waste containers and business waste placed in approved animal proof business waste containers from a location and in a condition as determined in the By-law or any notice in terms of this By-law. Waste placed in a location not meeting the prescriptions of the Municipality or a receptacle not approved by the Municipality will not be collected.

Section 13(5)(C) receptacles are to be kept closed to avoid animal and insect interference and wind-blown litter in a clean and hygienic condition;

Section 13(10) Only animal proof containers may be used by residents in areas which the Municipality has declared as problem animal areas and these containers are at cost obtainable from the Municipality or an approved vendor.

Section 13(11) If an owner or occupier of premises in a problem animal area is using a receptacle that does not comply with the requirements of the Municipality, he will be instructed to obtain an animal proof container either from the Municipality or an approved vendor and, in cases where the Municipality is of the opinion that more than one animal proof container is needed due to the volume of waste, the owner or occupier will be compelled to purchase such additional container or containers.

- **“animal proof container”** means an approved waste container of suitable design and locking mechanism which prevents problem animals (wildlife or domestic) from gaining access to waste in a waste container, as required by the Municipality in specific areas.
- **“problem animal areas”** means areas identified from time to time by the Municipality, as listed and amended as required from time to time on the Overstrand website, where animals behave in a way that creates problems.

Please note that this letter serves as a request to comply with Part A) and Part B) of this letter. If it is found that any transgression in relation to the above continue on your property the Municipality will request that Cape Nature investigate and prosecute under the Regulations. If the Overstrand Waste Management Bylaw is not adhered to the matter will be referred to the Overstrand Law Enforcement Department who will investigate the matter and who may issue a fine to the transgressors.

Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated. For any queries please contact the Overstrand Municipality’s Environmental Management Section at 028 316 3724.

