



Bluewater

E S T A T E

Kommetjie

Bluewater Estate Policy on Baboons

What Residents are required to do when Baboons are spotted inside the Estate

Management have set up a WhatsApp group for the purpose of quick alerts.

1. Call the **NCC Hotline: 071 588 6540** immediately in order for the lawfully trained rangers to herd baboons out of the Estate. These rangers also carry legal permits for the paintballs guns they carry. This is vital to the safety of the baboons that they are moved out of the urban area back to natural areas. Urban areas are extremely dangerous for baboons and baboons that become overly habituated to people or urban areas are at risk of euthanasia in the best interests of both the baboons and the public.
2. Our Baboon Monitoring WhatsApp group must be for reporting only. **NO CHAT AT ALL.** Only a street addresses, number of baboons (single baboon or troop), and if they have entered inside a house or are in the garden must be reported. Please also state that you have alerted NCC so that they do not become overwhelmed with phone calls from a single area. It is important to keep the group **REPORT ONLY** as chat on the group means that people will silence their phones or not join the group. Please set a sound for the group that is different to those you use for other conversations and groups. The louder and more obnoxious the better. If your domestics, nannies and gardeners are not already on the group, please send a request for inclusion to the Estate Manager.
3. When the report goes out that there is a baboon in the Estate, close your doors and windows immediately. Let your domestics and nannies know to do the same if they are at your home at the time.
4. Arrange for your pets especially your dogs to be brought inside. If out walking your dog, please ensure to have it on a leash.
5. Do not leave food/ fruit bowls/ pet food in view. They will attempt to open doors or windows if they see visible food.
6. If a baboon is injured, you may report it by calling the **NCC Hotline: 071 588 6540**.

Failure to adhere to the WhatsApp group rules pertaining to no chatter will result in you being removed from the group.

Resident's responsibilities to make Bluewater Estate less desirable to visit

1. Baboons like veggie gardens. It is imperative that veggie gardens are properly screened and inaccessible to baboons.
2. Compost bins must be properly secured.
3. Rubbish bins must be baboon proof. ALL residents are required to baboon proof their bins.



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4. Ensure doors and windows are closed when an alert goes out. Clear Perspex window bars may be installed (please ensure the spacing between these bars is less than 6cm apart to be most effective).
5. Keep trees trimmed where they may present a convenient entry point into the Estate – you may request assistance from the Management Team who may also place razor wire around the base of the offending tree/s where your Erf forms part of the Estate perimeter only.
6. Only take bins and recycling out on collection days and bring them back inside on the same day as the collection/s take place. Between collections, it is advisable to keep bins and recycling bags out of sight e.g. inside your garage if possible.
7. Please familiarise yourself with the broad area that the baboon rangers cover. Do not assume that they will be immediately available
8. Residents should keep themselves informed by reading all information shared by the Management Team or any authorities who specialise in baboon behaviour and conservation. Residents are also encouraged to attend any meetings held by relevant authorities.



[Baboon Proofing Your Property | NCC Group](#)

It is entirely your responsibility to baboon proof your homes. The link above provides options for several different types of baboon-proofing you may require. NCC offers free consulting on baboon-proofing recommendations for your houses and properties as well. Contact the NCC hotline to arrange.

In the absence of a CoCT baboon proof bin, all residents will be required to baboon proof their bins themselves. Failing to secure compost bins and baboon proof your bin will result in a fine.



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What do to if a Baboon gets into your house?

It is important to note baboons are non-confrontational. They will not attack you, your children or pets as a first option. They will not investigate sleeping babies in cribs. They will choose to leave before they will choose to fight. They only attack dogs and humans if they feel threatened or trapped. DO NOT PANIC. Open as many doors and windows as you can to create exit points and then loudly clap your hands and stamp your feet till they leave. You can always phone the **NCC Hotline: 071 588 6540** and you will be put on a priority list if the baboon is inside.

1. REMAIN CALM

The baboon may feel trapped and is likely to find your arrival stressful. By keeping calm, with no sudden movement, you are less likely to incite a negative interaction. Trapped animals can be unpredictable, and chaotic movement can exacerbate their fear.

2. AVOID EYE CONTACT

Staring can be seen as a threat.

3. DO NOT TRY TAKING ANYTHING AWAY FROM A BABOON

If the baboon picks up something other than food, it will inspect and eventually drop it. Confronting the baboon to retrieve something could cause an aggressive response or cause the Baboon to flee with your item.

4. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LURE THE BABOON OUT OF YOUR PROPERTY USING FOOD

This is illegal and will only teach a baboon that humans are a direct source of food, thus emboldening their behaviour around humans.

5. DO NOT DIRECTLY FEED THE BABOON

Once again this is illegal and teaches them that humans are a willing source of food supply. Please teach your children, domestics, nannies and gardeners the same.

6. KEEP PETS AWAY

Whenever possible, place pets in another room where they cannot interact with the baboon. Never set a dog on a baboon. This can lead to serious injury for both the baboon and dog.

7. PROVIDE AS MANY EXIT ROUTES AS POSSIBLE

Identify nearest exit and ensure that you are not blocking it. If possible, without cornering or getting too close to the baboon, open more windows and doors to provide multiple escape routes. The baboon is then less likely to panic or react aggressively.

8. ENCOURAGE THE BABOON TO LEAVE

You may (without blocking the baboon's exit route):



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- Clap hands and stamp your feet loudly
- Bang 2 pots together
- Spray with water

Legalities

Baboons are formally protected species and harming them in anyway can lead to heavy fines and/or imprisonment.

[Cape Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974 – Centre for Environmental Rights](#)

[Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 – Centre for Environmental Rights](#)

Members of the public may not, under any circumstances, seek out, 'hunt', harass or chase baboons.

The definition of "hunt" in relation to the Ordinance is in relation to any wild animal by any means whatsoever to search for, kill capture, or attempt to kill or capture, or to pursue, follow or drive with intent to kill or capture, or to shoot at, poison, lie in wait for, or willfully disturb.

No weapons, including air guns, pellet guns and paintball guns, whether loaded or unloaded, may be pointed at or used to threaten baboons unless carried by duly appointed and authorised NCC monitors. In fact, it is against the law to openly carry these out in Public unless you fall under specific categories e.g. military personnel, police, etc.

[Firearms Control Act, 2000 \(Act No. 60 of 2000\)](#)

The Bluewater Estate Members and Residents Code of Conduct refers:

2.5 No firearm, pellet gun, catapult, bow and arrow or any other weapon may be used on or in the vicinity of the Estate.

Only lawfully and duly appointed bodies may relocate baboons and even then, there is a decision-making process that comes into effect including age, physical and emotional health, habits, odds of baboon resocialisation, etc. Civilians are not permitted to or even attempt to relocate or outsource relocation to anyone else.

Residents who are found guilty of the above will be reported to the authorities.

Residents may only encourage baboons to move along if the baboon is inside their property, and only by the methods listed above.



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Explanation of the lone male Baboon behaviour

Where we see a lone baboon, he is often testing the waters to see if he is able to permanently leave his troop and set off on his own in order to join an unrelated troop. This is often the stage when male baboons enter urban areas as development blocks and fragments the natural landscape. While in the urban area baboons often find easy food sources, such as food from bins, gardens and houses. This often distracts the male from continuing on his journey to find another troop of baboons. Urban areas are dangerous for baboons (e.g. dog attacks, vehicles) and baboons that settle in the urban area and continue to access houses may be euthanised in the best interests of both the baboon and the public. Living near the mountain, we will likely have more males that enter this phase of life and come to visit. It is very important that we do not become complacent and continue to discourage baboons from entering the Estate.

Project Area

Approximately 80 Urban Baboon Programme staff members operate in the field in the following areas:

Kommetjie, Ocean View, Capri, Da Gama Park, Welcome Glen, Glencairn, , Simon's Town, Scarborough, Smitswinkel Bay, Murdock Valley, Tokai, Zwaanswyk, Constantia, Plateau Road and Gordon's Bay.

Final Note

The Bluewater Estate Board and Management will continue to operate within the ambit of the Law and at reducing entry points into the Estate (boundary only) and that the WhatsApp alert group continues to operate as an early warning tool. They will also continue to share any information deemed of interest and or useful with Residents. The onus is on you, as Residents, to discourage baboons from entering the Estate by eliminating easy pickings in your own homes and gardens.

Living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. We get the benefits of open spaces, wildlife encounters and incredible walks through nature. This means we need to learn to co-exist with the non-human world, including baboons. We can do our best to discourage them but there is always the chance that they will pop by for a visit. Keep your wits about you and make small changes to your home and behaviour to remain on cordial terms with our simian cousins.

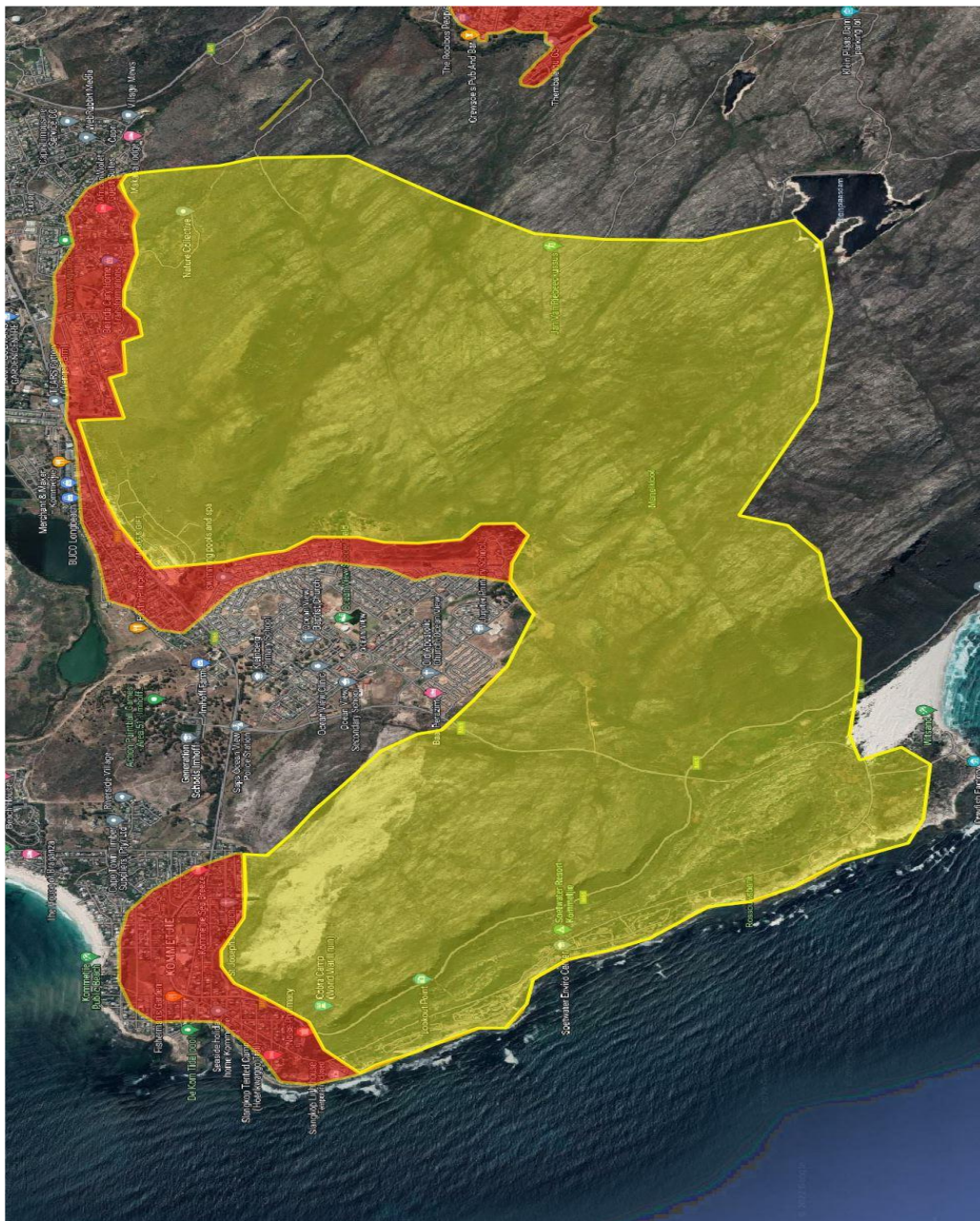


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Slangkop Troop ranging area - Map



Slangkop Troop Approximate Range

Natural ranging area

Urban ranging area

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd.

Dr. Joselyn Mormile

February 2025