



ELISENHEIM OWNERS ASSOCIATION

EOA CIRCULAR 15 ***BABOON PROBLEM – STATUS AND INTENTIONS***

To all Homeowners and Residents

22 June 2022

The current problems experienced with baboons on certain areas of the Estate was discussed yesterday (21 Jun 22) at the Security Sub-Committee meeting.

We understand the concern from residents, as these are wild animals, and being driven by survival instincts, do pose a definite risk to people, as they are competing for food and space.

Below are the resolves taken by the Sub-Committee.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. Elisenheim Estate Management to contact Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in order to discuss the involvement of the MET with the control of problem animals, which the baboons clearly are on the Estate.***
- 2. Tephcor to employ foot patrols during certain times of the day and certain areas of the Estate where the baboons are the biggest threat. This is to establish human presence which will assist in the scaring off of the baboons.***

We would like to caution residents against the use of firearms when trying to deal with this problem, and to only in cases of justified self-defence, resort to the use of firearms, as it would otherwise be illegal to discharge a firearm on the Estate.

I post below a piece published by the town of Knysna in SA who has a similar problem, and which might be helpful until we get a more permanent solution to this problem.

Regards, and stay safe...

Estate Manager

ELISENHEIM OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Baboon Control

The wonderful thing about living on the urban edge is being able to enjoy nature in all its splendour. Unfortunately, that also means dealing with problem animals such as baboons.

Baboon activity in residential areas increases from about June to August as food in the veld and forests decline in winter, and local baboon populations come in search of other sources of sustenance.

While baboons can even stroll into town on occasion, persons living near the urban edge are most likely to be affected, and therefore a special request for them to heed the following advice:

Warn your neighbours when baboons are in the vicinity.

- When baboons enter the urban edge, report it to **Elisenheim Estate Management at 0811439966.**
- Keep doors locked and windows closed when baboons are in the vicinity.
- Install night bolts on sliding doors to prevent baboons from lifting them off their tracks.
- Install latches on the opening edge of windows, particularly top-hung ones, so that baboons cannot pull the frame and break the glass.
- Install burglar bars on windows you usually keep open. Keep in mind that nowhere there should be more than an 8cm gap to ensure that even the babies stay out.
- Baboon-proof your rubbish by placing it inside a caged area, lockable bin or inside in the garage.
- Do not have food on display where it can be seen.
- Do not leave pet food outside or feed pets outside.
- Do not put seed out for wild birds.
- Do not plant fruit trees, vegetable gardens or make compost heaps unless they are situated inside a locked caged area or surrounded by electric fencing.
- Plant indigenous as baboons love exotic plants.
- NEVER feed baboons. They will return to your property again and again.

If confronted by a baboon

- In your garden or house, stand still and remain calm. Sudden movements will make it act defensively.
- Back away slowly and do not block its escape route.
- Be determined, decisive and confident when driving a baboon off.
- Spray the baboon with a strong stream of water as they hate water. Have a water pistol in the house and a hose pipe ready in the garden.
- Keep pets out of the way.
- Do not try to snatch back anything from a baboon – it will fight to hold on to food.
- Do not threaten infants and juveniles as adults, in particularly the alpha male, will protect them with aggression if necessary.