

- Exposed plumbing, basins, showers etc. must be properly secured with extra brackets.

TEST THEIR STRENGTH BY CLIMBING ON THEM YOURSELF!

- Try to avoid thatch roofs. When these roofs are not maintained, they deteriorate over time and juvenile baboons love to pull the thatch out. If the house you have purchased has a thatch roof, get a professional to cover it with chicken mesh.
- Big six-roof sheeting is recommendable for the area since it is baboon and weather proof.
- TV antennas should be fitted in the ceiling and not on the roof. Secure a thorn branch or barbed wire along the arm of your exterior satellite dish.
- Avoid outside windowsills or window boxes. These provide a gripping and vaulting platform and serve as baboon seats.
- Install round doorknobs, as our baboons have not yet learned to open these.
- Discreet electric fencing may be used on upper storeys to keep baboons out of selected rooms or balconies.
- Try to avoid cultivating fruit trees, vegetable gardens and compost heaps, as these features will only attract the baboons to your property.

*THEN SIT BACK AND ENJOY LIVING WITH
BABOONS IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CORNER
OF SOUTH AFRICA*



**Contact the Overstrand Municipality for
general advice on baboons at
(028) 271 8100 (Hangklip/Kleinmond) or
(028) 313 8000 (Hermanus) and ask for the
local Nature Conservation Officer.**



**The Overstrand Nature Conservation Dept.
designed this leaflet with the help of the
Biosphere Reserve Action Group (BRAG)**

**Dr. Jenny Stark can be
contacted at (028) 273 8961 or
Chris Burlock at (028) 273 8278**

**THINKING
OF
BUYING
A HOUSE?
BUILDING?
MOVING?**



BACKGROUND

Wild baboon troops occur in the Overstrand area at Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Hangklip, Betty's Bay, Kleinmond and Hermanus.

The coastal plains is their home as well as ours.

This sharing of common space often lead to conflict with local residents, holidaymakers and visitors.

Baboons are not predators, but will exploit any opportunity, which promises them food.

SO WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Most houses in the region are used as 'jungle gyms' by the baboons and are either built in such a way that the baboons can cause extensive damage or they provide a welcoming resting place for the juveniles who just love to play!

As part of their games, young baboons

- swing on gutters
- break TV antennas or
- loosen roof tiles



...MORE PROBLEMS...

Adult male baboons can weigh as much as 36kg, are very strong and they are often able to:

- lift some makes of sliding doors off their tracks
- wedge windows open that have been left unsecured and slightly ajar

Remember that juveniles at play and adults in search of food can inadvertently cause extensive damage to your home. Avoid this by outsmarting them with intelligent design of new homes, or by taking some simple, preventative measures in existing homes.

WHEN BUILDING, BUYING OR RENOVATING, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Select your outside lights carefully. Use bulkhead lights, which baboons cannot hold onto. And remember, there is a law against pollution in the area. Outside lighting must not spill onto neighbouring properties.
- All external sliding doors must be fitted with track guards and spring-loaded lugs to secure them in place and prevent them from being lifted off their tracks.
- Standard burglar bars will not keep baboons out of your home. Please ensure that no gap exceeds 80mm, or baboons will get through.



- Use aluminium window frames rather than wooden frames. These should be treated regularly to avoid deterioration. Baboons can gain entry by persistently chewing on deteriorated wooden frames.
- Install window catches on both sides of top-hung windows or the baboons will wedge the unsecured side up until the frame bends or the glass breaks. Ensure that your builder install glass panes according to the prescribed building regulations i.e. 3mm glass is only acceptable for windows smaller than 250X250mm.
- If you want a rock pool or swimming pool, you will have to cover it with netting. Baboons love to play in water, and these features will attract them to your property.
- Design new homes with concealed gutters and down pipes. Existing homes with outside guttering should have additional brackets, not more than 300mm apart.