

**PERPETUATING THE ENDLESS CYCLE OF CRUELTY
AGAINST BABOONS IN THE OVERSTRAND:
A 30-Day Study of Incidents in Pringle Bay during
September and October 2023**



A female baboon desperately clutches her baby after being shot at point blank range with a paint ball gun by a Pringle Bay resident. The repeat offender has been reported to the South African Police Services. Her only misdemeanour was that she walked past the offender's house.

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Introduction

The greatest threat to the survival of the Chacma baboon species is conflict with humans. Baboons have gained notoriety as being troublesome but according to academics this observation may be more related to human [perception](#) than to empirical data.

This study was conducted in Pringle Bay over a thirty- day period. Critical photographic and video evidence has been used as an explanatory and illustrative source.

The home-range of baboons is the area normally occupied by the troop throughout their adult lives. The part of the home-range habitually used for sleeping and feeding is [termed](#) the core area, baboons sleep in the [safest](#) place available to them.

Chacma baboons living in large complex multi-male and or multi-female groups [respond](#) to environmental pressures including season changes in food availability, temperature and day length by not only altering their diet but also by reallocating their time spent engaging in necessary tasks including resting, feeding and socialising.

The diet of baboons living in the Overstrand mainly herbivorous but it is supplemented by animal food such as grasshoppers, ants, marine shellfish, sea-lice, small crustaceans.

Cape Floral Kingdom one of the World's Most Threatened Hotspots

The content of a South African grade five Natural Science text book illustrates the importance of the [inter-dependence](#) of plants and animals. Furthermore, the content specifically uses the example of the chacma baboon and fynbos. Fynbos is the natural shrubby, hardy plant occurring in the Western Cape. One of the ways that the seeds of fynbos plants are dispersed is through baboon faeces. Baboons and plants are therefore inter-dependent, with baboons helping to ensure the continued survival of the fynbos plants.

According to the [South African National Biodiversity Institute](#), under increasing pressure from human development, the Cape Floral Kingdom, also known as the fynbos biome, or Cape Floristic Region is one of the world's 25 most threatened hotspots. A hotspot is an area with a high concentration of plant and animal species that are under threat of extinction if development continues at its current pace. A total of 1736 fynbos plants are critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.

The natural vegetation in this region's lowlands has been increasingly been removed to make way for urban expansion. Ecosystems have been damaged by over-extraction of water, too frequent fires and the invasion of alien plants. The wilderness has been broken up to such an extent that populations of plants and animals are becoming too small to remain viable.

Towns all along the Western Cape's Whale Coast have experienced massive growth in the [demand](#) for the construction of new real estate. After the global pandemic Covid-19 there is an exponential increase of people working remotely from their offices. Hermanus, Pringle Bay, Bettys Bay and Kleinmond are villages and towns which form part of the Overstrand Municipal area and they have are all [listed](#) as zoom towns.

Recognising that Living in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve is a Lifestyle Choice

The Overstrand Municipality [reminded](#) residents in 2021 that selecting to live in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve is a lifestyle choice that involves certain responsibilities.

“It is essential that all community members work together to keep baboon’s out of harm’s way by not allowing certain attractants in and around your home. For instance avoid planting fruit trees, close windows and doors during the day if you do not have burglar bars, install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible of 8cm apart, do not feed birds.

Ensure that you have lockable bins, all bins used in baboon-affected areas should be baboon proofed and locked. Refuse bags should not be left lying open easily available to baboons. Store you bin in a lockable refuse room, garage or shed.

Warn your neighbours when baboons are in the vicinity so that they can close their doors and windows, when a baboon is in your garden or house, back away slowly do not block its escape route.

Recognise that living in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve is a lifestyle choice.”

There are certain outspoken residents who are actively publicly advocating for the complete removal of baboons from the village of Pringle Bay.

Environmental and Non-Governmental Organisations Play an Indispensable Role in the Environmental Sector in South Africa

Environmental NGOs with their skilful and knowledgeable personnel can influence decisionmakers towards environmentally friendly [solutions](#) and also inspire and motivate society to act and demand meaningful environmental protection. They serve no other interests other than the protection of the natural environment.

[Kogelberg Villages Environmental Trustees](#) KVET is a registered non-profit organisation, which represents the ecological interests of Betty’s Bay, Kleinmond and Pringle Bay.

KVET has employed trained Baboon Information Officers who have been operating, (of late) from 7am until 7pm, 7 days a week in Pringle Bay since April 2023. During this time they have kept detailed records of baboon behaviour which has been examined and analysed by academics and experts alike.

[Betty’s Bay Action Group](#), Pringle Bay Rewilding and Pringle Bay Conservation Group are concerned with biodiversity protection in the Overstrand with a special focus on the Chacma baboon.

The [EMS Foundation](#) is a registered non-profit organisation and public benefit organisation which is concerned with social justice issues including wild animal protection and welfare.

The EMS Foundation has dispatched and published numerous open letters of concern and have repeatedly requested the necessity for transparency and accountability from the Overstrand Municipality representatives and ward councillors with regard to the development of the Overstrand Strategic Baboon Management Plan. This plan was implemented without thorough public consultation.

The EMS Foundation has expressed serious concern about various tender processes and the appointment of a baboon management service provider by the Overstrand Municipality. The EMS Foundation also requested a copy of the full Report of the Section 106 investigation initiated by residents and rate payers in Bettys Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooiels in 2021. The EMS Foundation was

informed via the Promotion of Access to Information Act that, contrary to reports published in the media, this investigation never took place.

The current untenable situation between the residents in Pringle Bay, highlighted on social and mainstream media is disheartening and discouraging for tourists and local inhabitants alike. The EMS Foundation is still hopeful that an official democratically agreed upon and effective baboon management plan can be developed.

The Exclusionary Baboon Liaison Group

Despite their undisputed enormous contribution to their local communities in Hermanus, Kleinmond, Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group and KVET have been denied access or been dismissed from participating in the Baboon Liaison Group.

A Compactum was concluded between the Overstrand Municipality, CapeNature and the Western Cape Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs in March 2019. The purpose of this Compactum was to create a mechanism to resolve the issue of the control and management of "nuisance or damage causing" baboons that occur in the Overstrand Municipal area.

A Baboon Management Joint Task was established to compile a Strategic Baboon Management Plan for the Overstrand Municipal Area. This was established without a broad public participation process. To the best of our knowledge both the Overstrand Compactum and the Strategic Baboon Management Plan has expired.

The Baboon Liaison Group formed part of the Overstrand Municipality Strategic Baboon Management Plan. According to their documents, the overarching purpose of the Baboon Liaison Group was to serve as a platform for the Overstrand Municipality to engage constructively with all stakeholders, specifically local organised civil society and local organised businesses in matters regarding the implementation of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan.

See **Annexure 1** for the BLG Terms of Reference.

The Pringle Bay Resident Refuse Bins and the Official Refuse Dumping Site

Pringle Bay is a village located in a UNESCO proclaimed World Heritage Site the Kogelberg Biosphere. Baboons form an important and key element of this World Heritage site.

There are existing guidelines for residents living in the villages and towns of the Overstrand which have historically been populated with the Chacma baboon species. Our research gathered through interactions and interviews with residents clearly illustrates that many of the newer residents are not aware of the implications of living with baboons, some residents are not even aware that Pringle Bay is home to the Boomslang, the Cape Cobra, the Berg Adder and the Puff Adder.



Baboons are naturally attracted by food, unsecured public and private waste bins and the waste collections site in Pringle Bay continue to be a problem.











Important Note: Images of the official Pringle Bay official refuse dumping site were captured over a thirty-day period. All of these images and the timeline can be verified.

The enormity of the responsibility of educating potential buyers, ratepayers and visitors to the Overstrand who have made the decision to purchase or to rent properties or to visit Overstrand Municipal areas, which has historically been inhabited by baboons, cannot be underestimated. Residents and visitors to this area of South Africa need to make serious, considered ongoing adjustments and allowances for the normal opportunistic behaviour of baboons.

Baboons will always be attracted by convenient sources of food and one such source of a constant food supply is the discarded human food found in unsecured public and private refuse bins in Pringle Bay.

We have noted that the public refuse site is being abused by some residents and by some building contractors and or their staff in Pringle Bay, for instance, even when the recycling bin is not full, residents dump recycling on the ground outside the recycling cage. Unsecured, this debris is then swept up and scattered everywhere by the wind. The dump is also frequently used by builders to dump their building waste.

The dump site is frequented by all forms of wildlife including birds, mongoose, porcupines and baboons.

Wheelie Bin Baboon-Proofing for R300.00
A NON PROFIT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



URGENT NOTICE : HOW TO GET YOUR EXISTING BIN BABOON-PROOFED !

**SATURDAY
21 SEPTEMBER**



**BETTY'S BAY &
PRINGLE BAY**

(If there is enough interest,
we can arrange to be in Kleinmond)

NB: This first call is for people who already own wheelie bins

The next push will be for us to arrange brand new bins,
including baboon proofing, for those who don't already own a bin.
We can get a good price if we buy in bulk to be delivered to Betty's Bay

IF INTERESTED PLEASE MESSAGE

Renee – Betty's Bay & Kleinmond: 0606 567 341

Elsa – Betty's Bay: 083 283 7362

Liezl – Pringle Bay: 066 241 8169

The fitter will come to our area for the day to do as many bins as possible.
We need to get them to a few centrally located areas as driving from house to
house will take up too much time. We hope to do between 30 and 50 bins.
They will be done while you wait.

**PRINGLE BAY
RUBBISH DROP-OFF STATION**
9am – 11am
during the verge/drop off rubbish clean up

**BETTY'S BAY
PENGUIN PLACE CAR PARK**
11:30 – 13:30
Opposite Coffee on Clarence

WE WILL BE CALLING ON PEOPLE WITH BAKKIES TO HELP ON THE DAY
PLEASE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T GET THEIR BINS TO THE LOCATIONS

IF NOT ABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT RENEE
TO ARRANGE BRINGING YOUR BIN TO HER BEFORE SEPT 21



This non profit service requires payment in advance
Either cash (to one of the three listed above) or via EFT to KVET's bank account*
FNB Current Account: # 63043374197, Branch code: 250655, Reference: Bin & Name

*Anyone wishing to add a donation to support KVET's efforts
in PB, BB and KM is more than welcome to do so



PRINGLE BAY VERGE CLEAN UP

"JOIN US TO CLEAN THE VERGE AND AREAS
SURROUNDING THE DUMP"

**EVERY 3RD SATURDAY
9AM - 11AM**

www.kvet.org.za

SUPPORTED BY THE PRINGLE BAY
CONSERVATION GROUP

The public dump site in Pringle Bay is in urgent need of an upgrade and expansion. On certain days the dump is overwhelmed despite the very best efforts of the rotating municipal cleaning system.

The NGO's and environmental organisations are willing and are actively trying to assist the community at large with unique initiatives to improve the village's refuse control and removal in Pringle Bay.

Importance of Baboon Proofing Homes

The earliest residents of Pringle Bay whose parents bought properties in the village in the 1960's have confirmed, when interviewed, that there have always been resident troops of baboons.

These baboons traversed through the village daily whilst they forage after leaving and returning to their sleep sites. The baboons are, however, far more visible now as they try to move along the exact same routes that once criss-crossed empty stands of land have now been diminished to narrow pathways between houses. Not only have the baboon foraging sites been drastically reduced and they are forced to encounter dangers from hazardous materials, motor vehicles, humans and dogs on a daily basis.

Therefore, the residents who are outspoken against the baboons in Pringle Bay and who insist that the behaviour of the baboons has altered should be encouraged to speak to the residents and regular visitors to Pringle Bay who have had more than six decades of experience with living with the baboons in this village.

Baboons are opportunistic and extremely intelligent, they know that houses contain food and therefore if they see an open window or door they will attempt to access the property.

Living harmoniously with baboons requires certain investments to infrastructure and ongoing diligence on the part of the residents. The residents of Rooiels, the neighbouring village who have successfully achieved this have published [Guidelines for Coexisting with Baboons](#). Suggestions for baboon proofing homes have been widely published and distributed by KVET.

 <p>WINDOW EXCLUSION DEVICE/ (BABOON LOCKS) THE CLAW Graham Knight - 066 107 6854 BB GLASS 028 272 9931 Private Installations Bright Kaunda 078 658 3334</p>	<p>THE BLOCK & CLAW www.clawsecurity.co.za Graham Knight - 066 107 6854</p>  
<p>SECURING / BABOON PROOFING YOUR HOME A KVET INITIATIVE (ROGELBERG VILLAGES ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTEES) FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT www.kvet.org.za</p>	
<p>HARDWARE STORES Various Lock Latch systems for security & sliding doors. Round Door Knobs - baboons cannot open these Private Installations Bright Kaunda 078 558 3334</p> 	 <p>STAINLESS STEEL LATCH LOCKS FOR SLIDING AND STACKER DOORS</p> <p>GOSSIP CORNER ROOI ELS 078 553 2955 Private Installations Bright Kaunda 078 558 3334</p>

A KVET Initiative
SECURING / BABOON PROOFING YOUR HOME

BUDGET-FRIENDLY & DIY

Whether you are looking for a DIY or professionally installed solution to baboon-proof your home, there are many options available for a range of budgets, needs and styles. Here are some local providers and options that KVET knows and recommends.

General principles:

- ALL gaps must be 7cm or less
- Human-proof does NOT mean baboon-proof!
- windows
- etc.

ROUND DOOR KNOBS
 Baboons cannot open round knobs.



FROM: **HW** **INT**

PUSH-LOCK BOLT



FROM: **HW** **INT**

AUTO-LOCKING GATE LATCH




FROM: **HW** **INT**

THE CLAW™



FROM: **GK**

THE BLOCK



FROM: **GK**

LOCKLATCH™



FROM: **HW** **GC-R** **INT**

WINDOW EXCLUSION DEVICE / HINGE (BABOON LOCK)



FROM: **BB G** **GK** **INT**

AVAILABLE LOCALLY

HW **HARDWARE STORES**
 Most small and large hardware will carry a selection of similar items.

GC-R **GOSSIP CORNER ROOI ELS**
 admin@gossipcorner.co.za
 Emile - 072 596 8888

BB G **BB GLASS**
 3005 Clarence Dr, Betty's Bay
 www.bbglass.co.za
 Shop: 028 272 9931

GK **Graham Knight**
 www.clawsecurity.co.za
 pringlebay@clawsecurity.co.za
 066 107 6854

INT **PRIVATE INSTALLATIONS**
 Bright Kaunda
 078 558 3334



Questions? KVET can help!

info@kvet.org.za
 www.kvet.org.za

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 KOGELBERG VILLAGES ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTEES

A KVET Initiative

SECURING / BABOON PROOFING YOUR HOME

PREMIUM SOLUTIONS

Whether you are looking for a DIY or professionally installed solution to baboon-proof your home, there are many options available for a range of budgets, needs and styles. Here are some local providers and options that KVET knows and recommends.

General principles:

- ALL gaps must be 7cm or less
- Human-proof does NOT mean baboon-proof!
- windows
- etc.

BESPOKE

Caroline McDowell

*Bespoke security gates
and burglar guards*

www.movinghands.com

072 621 0076



MESH SCREEN



Graham Knight

www.clawsecurity.co.za
pringlebay@clawsecurity.co.za
066 107 6854

CLEAR / POLYCARBONATE BARS



Graham Knight

www.clawsecurity.co.za
pringlebay@clawsecurity.co.za
066 107 6854

OTHER BRANDS

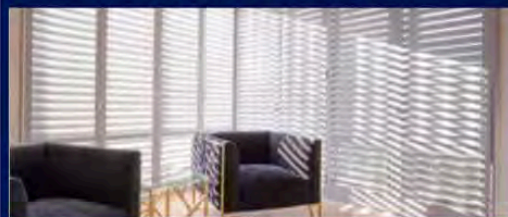
Xpanda

www.xpanda.co.za
0861 972 632

Trellidor

www.trellidor.co.za
(0) 861 873 554 367
(0861-TRELLIDOR)

SECURITY SHUTTERS



Plantation Shutters

www.plantation.co.za
021 577 1705

American Shutters

www.americanshutters.co.za
087 238 2123



Questions? KVET can help!

info@kvet.org.za
www.kvet.org.za

Presented by
KOGELBERG VILLAGES ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTEES

TURN OVER FOR BUDGET & DIY



These are examples during our study period of the incidents where baboons gained entry to houses.

It is not helpful when residents publish false information on social media. The KVET teams on the ground are in constant contact with one another, the supervisor and the project manager. Information about the baboon activities is shared in real time, critical photographic and video evidence is used as an explanatory and illustrative source. Therefore, it is easy to verify statements about baboons grabbing food or accessing properties.

At 52 High Level Road, baboons entered a house through a window, where the latch is/was faulty, the window does not close. KVET contact the owner, the property is being rented out, KVET obtained key from the neighbours and the Eco Rangers herded the baboons out, KVET offered to help clean up, this assistance was not required.



It must be stated that there seems to be confusion, quite possibility due to the lack of training, of what the mandate is of the Overstrand Municipality Eco Rangers when confronted with situation of when baboons have gained access to a property due to the fact that a window or door has not been closed.



Baboons gained access to 1493 Zandra Drive through an open window. The KVET BIO reported the incident to the KVET Supervisor who in turn reported it to the KVET Project Manager.

The KVET Project Manager made the effort to personally check on the situation and contacted the security company, ASK, because the alarm was activated. The keys for house were located in Kleinmond. The house is a holiday home, it had been rented and the tenants left the window open in error.



KVET took the trouble to contact the owner of this property who lives in Cape Town as a follow up courtesy.

Another incident took place at the house on the corner of Buffles and William Road where baboons gained access to house when the front door was left open by the housekeeper. The Municipal Eco Rangers assisted in herding the baboons out.



Windows were left open at the partially built house on Caesar Road by construction workers. The baboons gained access to the house. Three Municipal Eco Rangers entered and exited the house with the baboons.

KVET Project Manager contact the construction company and was given permission to enter the property and to secure the valuable tools that were left within property. KVET took a photographic inventory of the valuable equipment for the construction company.





Whilst KVET was securing the equipment the Project Manager noticed a large amount of blood which was photographed.





Obviously, a serious incident involving one or more of the baboons took place in the unsecured, partially built house.

When questioned the Municipal appointed Eco Rangers denied any knowledge of the blood evidence. The cap photographed in the house belongs to one of the Eco Rangers.

Subsequently the Eco Rangers remembered the blood and offered an explanation which upon investigation could not be verified.





There has been no reasonable explanation from the Municipal appointed Eco Rangers forthcoming about how this baboon was injured in Pringle Bay. He was not injured prior to entering the property.

Serious Concerns Raised by Pringle Bay Residents About the Mandate and Training of the Municipal Eco Rangers

The Overstrand Municipality [published](#) the following advice to the residents of Pringle Bay on their website on the 3rd April 2023:

“The Overstrand Baboon Management Programme is implementing an Early Warning System to warn residents and business owners in Pringle Bay that the baboon troop has entered the urban area and Pringle Bay CBD so they can close doors and windows timeously. The main focus will be on Pringle Bay CBD. For the time being the Eco Monitors will alternative between whistles and vuvuzelas. The whistles and vuvuzelas will be momentarily be used to warn residents only the troops are entering the urban area.

The Baboon Monitors will walk the streets and the central business district of Pringle Bay throughout the declared problem animal area within Pringle Bay.”

When questioned the Municipal Eco Rangers confirmed that they have received no formal training.

The contract of employment obtained via the Promotion of Access to Information states: *“Applicants must have at least a Grade 10, or 1-2 years of experience of working in the natural environment and that the primary objective of the work will be to prevent Baboons from moving from the natural environment into the surrounding urban area of Kleinmond.*

See **Annexure 2** for the Eco Rangers Contract

Complaints of Eco Rangers Trespassing on Private Property

Residents complained about Municipal Eco Rangers trespassing on private properties and climbing over walls. Sitting on verandas of residents' homes while the residents are in their homes.

Whilst in this instance the Eco Rangers probably did not know the resident was at home while they were using the veranda, the resident found it extremely disconcerting to have strangers using their property without permission.



Residents raised an alarm when an Eco Ranger was photographed inside the perimeter of the property.



Another resident in Pringle Bay has chosen to secure her property with razor wire. The resident lives abroad was not aware that that it is [illegal](#) to use razor wire as a boundary fence option in a residential area and or without permission.

The resident has arranged for the razor wire to be removed. When questioned the resident stated that the motivation was to protect the property from the Municipal Eco Rangers who she said appeared to have no regard for private property.



Pringle Bay Village

Rainer Poewe · 1h · 🌐



I took this photo of razor wire , looks like fencing around a new building in the bush . Just imagine an animal getting caught in that . Is that legal, just in the field





Complaints About Eco Rangers Chasing Baboons on the Beach

On numerous occasions the Municipal appointed baboon Eco Rangers have chased the entire baboon troop which includes pregnant females and infants across on the delicate dunes on Pringle Bay beach. This is a natural foraging area for the baboons. The images confirm that the beach was empty and therefore there would be no need to herd the baboons away from humans.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA) includes the well-being of wild animals, which is defined as the “holistic circumstances and conditions of an animal, which are conducive to its physical, physiological and mental health and quality of life, including the ability to cope with its environment.”





Municipal appointed Baboon Eco Rangers chased the baboons to the lagoon and then formed a human wall to prevent the baboons from crossing the lagoon.





Municipal Baboon Eco Rangers chasing the baboons across the dunes on Pringle Bay beach.



Important Note:
These images are screenshots from numerous video evidence that was taken which can all be verifie

Municipal Eco Rangers filmed chasing and screaming at the baboons across the beach in Pringle Bay.



There are no humans on the beach other than the Eco Rangers therefore there is no reason at all to disturb the baboons from foraging naturally. Whose instructions are they following? Senior members of the Overstrand Municipality were on hand to witness this spectacle.

Complaints About Eco Rangers Chasing Baboons in and Over the Fynbos Over the Mountain to Bettys Bay







When asked the Municipal Eco Ranger stated that they have been told that they must keep the troop out of the urban area in Pringle Bay at all costs.

Chasing the troop of baboons across the open veld, damaging delicate fynbos, not using the existing pathways does not seem to fulfil the mandate of gently herding the baboons away from the central business district.

We have recorded the Eco Rangers push the entire troop up and over the mountain to the Brodie Link Nature Reserve. They then formed a line to prevent the baboons from returning.

This area is very close indeed to where the Silversands baboon troop is currently spending time foraging. As a result of this forced action the entire Silversands troop moved into the Silversands urban area. Something that has not occurred for a very long time, this is probably not a coincidence.



Below a few additional comments from experienced and qualified observers to this action:

1. The Municipal Eco Rangers were able to push and hold the troop of baboons without the use of paintball guns which clearly illustrates the fact that the paintball guns were not and are not required.
2. However, the troop was agitated by this overt pushing of them. They were visibly stressed illustrated by internal female fighting.


3. Most importantly, of great concern, due to their stress and less calm feeding opportunities we can safely presume they ended the day hungry without fulfilling their daily energy budget needs.

The Eco Rangers left the field and went to their office, they were collected and left Pringle Bay. Thirty minutes later some of the baboons came back down to Pringle Bay and succeeded in securing human derived foods. These baboons ended up sleeping on a roof of a very perturbed resident.

This would NOT have happened if the troop was calmly ushered out of the urban area giving them ample time to feed enroute which may take hours. Pushing and chasing baboons will revert to the more chaotic situation such as we experienced during the time when Human Wildlife Solutions where “monitoring” the baboons. Chasing baboons causes stress and baboons more determined to seek human derived food to boost their daily calorific intake.

 **Pringle Bay Village** ... ×
Magda Mills · 14 h · 

Bobbejane - this is for me the strangest behavior I have experienced since 1996. A resident of our house mentioned that the Bobbejane are sleeping on the roof of our house. I chased them 2x and now they are simply sleeping on the roofs of the 2 neighboring houses.
Is there an explanation for that? Why don't they go up to the stone head anymore that was always their sleeping place?
They don't feel safe there anymore for some reason?
Early in the morning the whole herd was on the neighbors roof. Now they are divided between the 2 neighboring roofs.
Clarenceweg slopes underneath the stone head.
I know they are building a house under the stone head - it probably can't have anything to do with it? - or how?

 · [Rate this translation](#)



Discarded Building Rubble Including Glass and Unsecured Building Sites

There are a vast number of construction sites in Pringle Bay, many of these sites are not secured.



[By law](#), building rubble may only be disposed of at the Karwyderskraal landfill site. On payment of the required fee, a permit to do so can be obtained from the Hangklip-Kleinmond Administration.

[By law](#), no building materials or rubble may be dumped or stored on the road verge. It is also illegal to stockpile materials on another property without the owners written permission.

The construction teams should be instructed to limit all activities including breaking for meals strictly to the area thus cleared. To propagate, many fynbos species are depend upon local ant species. Foreign ants commonly attracted by food waste (bread crusts and even food wrappers) are known to displace local ant species; consequently, these foreigners should be discouraged at all cost.

Note: [By law](#), all domestic waste should be disposed of in scavenger-proof refuse bins to discourage baboons in particular from foraging in residential areas. These bins are obtainable from the local authority.





There are numerous materials in these images of building materials that are not secured, that have sharp edges that could injure wild animals and humans alike.

Permit Issued by CapeNature Permit to Capture Pringle Bay Baboon Based Upon Unscientific, Unverifiable and Outdated Data



In this image, Kanye and the alpha male of the Pringle Bay troop of baboons, were photographed walking together leading the troop out of the village.

Lawyers acting for the EMS Foundation, KVET and the Betty's Bay Baboon Action Group informed the Overstrand Municipality and the Western Cape MEC for Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and Cape Nature on the 14th of September 2023 that the information relied upon to make the decision to relocate a baboon known as Kanye or Blue Tag was factually incorrect, non-scientific and hopelessly outdated.

The correspondence included verifiable data which has been analysed by experts and opinions from recognised primatologists - see **Annexure 3**.

Despite these communications CapeNature granted the Overstrand Municipality permission to capture Kanye on the 19th of September 2023.

In terms of this Report, over the past thirty days we have purposefully obtained footage of this baboon in order to confirm that he has fully integrated into the Pringle Bay troop.

Kanye has frequently been recorded in close proximity to the alpha male baboon and on occasion Kanye has led the troop ahead of the alpha male and the other troop members. He has partaken in numerous mutual grooming sessions.

We also have obtained footage and video evidence of Kanye mating with a female from the troop. He has been photographed with the baboon with whom he mated, while she groomed the infant, which is almost certainly his offspring.



The analysis of photographic evidence over a thirty-day period also confirms Kanye and the alpha male of the Pringle Bay troop have formed an alliance.



It remains our opinion that valuable municipal law enforcement resources were unnecessarily utilised on the 20th September 2023 in the attempt to capture a single baboon for relocation from Pringle Bay.

The operation relied upon outdated, unscientific and non-verifiable data, and despite our most gallant efforts to present accurate, scientific data CapeNature and the Overstrand Municipality refused to accept the accurate verifiable evidence.

Therefore, the only realistic conclusion that we can reach is that the Overstrand Municipality is being held to ransom by a few residents of Pringle Bay who do not want baboons in close proximity to the village. There simply can no other reasonable explanation.

Contrary to what an outspoken resident published on social media, there were no wildlife or pro baboon activists preventing the baboon capture cage from entering Pringle Bay on the 20th of September 2023. The cage was visible on the vehicle in the parking lot.



The Overstrand Municipality Standard Operating Procedure for Baboon Capture

The process to capture a baboon must follow CapeNature Baboon Management Guidelines. The main reason for the baboon capture are as follows:

1. Collaring
2. Tagging
3. Return to troop
4. Relocation to another troop
5. Assessment and potential welfare reasons

Experts and scientists who have examined images and data collected about the behaviour of Kanye since April 2023 have confirmed that Kanye is an integral part of the Pringle Bay troop. Similarly, Kanye has not displayed any adverse behaviour such as so called raiding since KVET was employed to

monitor the behaviour of the baboons in Pringle Bay. Therefore there is no reasons to move him from Pringle Bay.

In terms of the Overstrand Municipality Special Baboon Management Standard Operating Procedure for Baboon Capture there are certain processes that need to be adhered to. See **Annexure 4** for the SOP for Baboon Capture.







Pringle Bay Residents Attacking Baboons

Over the past thirty days we have witnessed and recorded adult men shooting at baboons using a number of different weapons. The weapons that have been brandished about, that we have recorded, include slingshots loaded with stones, paintball guns and a shot gun.

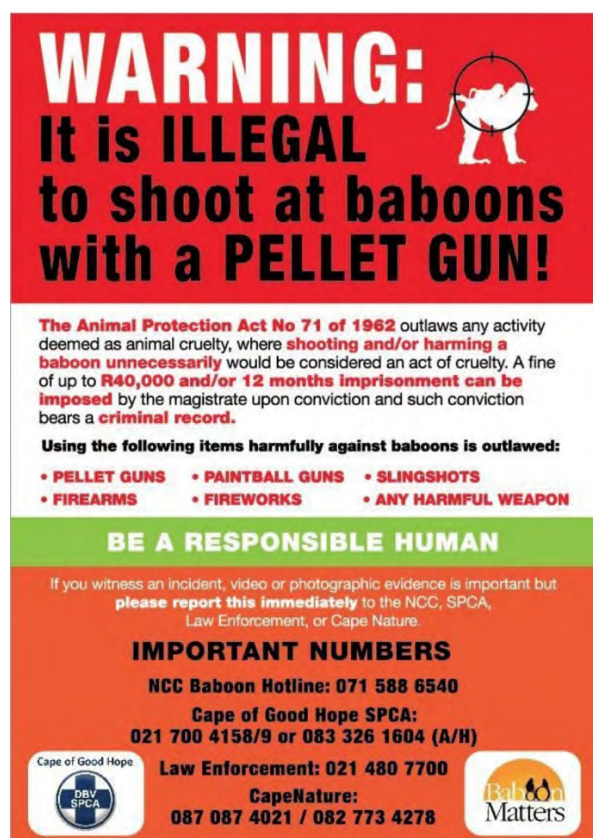
One of these adult men was photographed indiscriminately shooting at a female baboon with an infant with a paintball gun because she walked past his house.


Two of these men have received prior warnings from the South African Police Services.

These acts of cruelty were unprovoked. The ill-treatment of these baboon is unnecessary and, shooting at an indigenous wild animal such as a baboon within an urban area is not only an offence, but these actions could also have permanently injured the baboons. Such action towards the baboon is an offence in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962, section 4, which refers to causing “an animal to suffer unnecessarily”.

“ To hunt or search for, to 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” any wild animal is also in violation of the Western Cape [Nature Conservation Ordinance](#) No 19 of 1974.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA) includes the well-being of wild animals, which is defined as the “holistic circumstances and conditions of an animal, which are conducive to its physical, physiological and mental health and quality of life, including the ability to cope with its environment.”



WARNING: 
It is ILLEGAL
to shoot at baboons
with a PELLET GUN!

The Animal Protection Act No 71 of 1962 outlaws any activity deemed as animal cruelty, where **shooting and/or harming a baboon unnecessarily** would be considered an act of cruelty. A fine of up to **R40,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment can be imposed** by the magistrate upon conviction and such conviction bears a **criminal record**.

Using the following items harmfully against baboons is outlawed:



- PELLET GUNS
- PAINTBALL GUNS
- SLINGSHOTS
- FIREARMS
- FIREWORKS
- ANY HARMFUL WEAPON

BE A RESPONSIBLE HUMAN

If you witness an incident, video or photographic evidence is important but **please report this immediately** to the NCC, SPCA, Law Enforcement, or Cape Nature.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

NCC Baboon Hotline: 071 588 6540
Cape of Good Hope SPCA:
021 700 4158/9 or 083 326 1604 (A/H)
Law Enforcement: 021 480 7700
CapeNature:
087 087 4021 / 082 773 4278

The EMS Foundation witnessed the shooting of baboons with a slingshot also known as a kettie. This particular incident was performed by a repeat offender whose prior offences were recorded by the South African Police Services.

Representatives from the EMS Foundation visited the South African Polices Services and the office of CapeNature in Hermanus to report this incident. See [Annexure 5](#) for this incident report.



In another incident a resident of Pringle Bay shot a female baboon carrying an infant at close range with a paint ball gun. The incident was reported and a Law Enforcement Officer arrived in Pringle Bay a few hours later.

The Law Enforcement Officer took a verbal statement. The resident was apparently given a formal warning, his excuse was that 'once the baboons had attacked his dogs'. A formal statement was made at the Kleinmond Police Station. The accused is, according to evidence that we have viewed, a serial offender.





Conclusion

The Overstrand Municipality and CapeNature have chosen to ignore the most up-to-date expert evidence and scientific data analysed by academics in their decision-making processes which will negatively affect the well-being and the integrity of the entire troop of baboons living in Pringle Bay.

Despite the enormous contribution various NGO's have made to the protection of the Chacma baboon in the UNESCO World Heritage Site and Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, the Overstrand Municipality has refused to engage with any these ratepayers and legitimate stakeholders.

It has been our experience that admission or membership of Overstrand Municipality Baboon Liaison Group is discretionary and exclusionary.

The Municipal Eco Rangers have, according to their supervisors, received no formal training. Their behaviour on the beach in Pringle Bay is both unbecoming and of deep concern to the organisations and societies that protect the delicate ecosystems on these dunes. We are surprised that two senior representatives from the Overstrand Municipality condoned this damaging behaviour and we question their specific experience and expertise in matters concerning the natural environment.

Furthermore, we question the validity of the mandate of the Eco Rangers to chase pregnant female baboons and baboons with infants across the fynbos, not adhering to the strict rules about pathways. The baboons were chased almost all the way to the top of the slopes to neighbouring villages of Betty's Bay and Rooiels.

We have a moral obligation to address the cruelty shown towards the baboons in Pringle Bay by the Municipality of the Overstrand and some of the residents.