



PEZULA
GOLF ESTATE
HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

How can we help to manage baboons?

Household waste will be collected on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 09h00 and 11h00**, only! Please use wheelie bins with baboon proof latches – if the bins do not have these latches, contact the HOA who will assist to provide them. **PLEASE** do not leave your waste, especially in plastic bags, on the street outside these periods – the baboons and crows love to create havoc with it!

The baboon monitors, who do their best to keep our nature neighbours at bay, clearly cannot always guarantee success. Be alert, never leave unattended windows or doors open, make sure that you never invite them with displaying food or fruit in your house and **NEVER** feed them.



The baboons are active from sunrise to sunset with behavioural patterns that are often unpredictable. The troop sometimes split up which makes it more difficult to monitor. Therefore 100% success cannot be guaranteed. Our goal however is to keep the baboons away from the residential areas for as much of the day as possible.

Baboon Monitors can be identified by the bright orange vest they wear over their normal clothing if any negative or positive behavioural incident is noticed please notify the HOA.

Baboon monitoring on its own however would not solve our problem.

Residents need to take responsibility, and to achieve success in the long term will require a joint effort from all on the estate.



The baboons unfortunately will continue their easy foraging around the estate as the reward is high if there is a lot of food available to them in dustbins, dog food bowls, bird feeders and food in our homes.

We have to keep in mind that it won't be in any-one's interest to feed the baboons as they can later become problematic and aggressive to get food.

The "window shopping" activities of the baboons will lead to them entering homes where doors or windows are left open and unguarded. Baboons easily enter homes with little or insufficient security on windows and doors.

We have to keep in mind that these baboon “thieves” are only after one thing and that is food. Baboons can smell food/fruit from quite a far distance, and with this knowledge it is our responsibility to take preventative action by securing our windows and doors.

Our behaviour and baboons

How can we help to manage baboons:-

There are a few simple things we can do to reduce

- *Food – Keep fruit or any food out of sight from windows and glass doors.*



- *Garbage – Keep rubbish secure in a baboon proof bin or stored in the garage until collection day.*



- *Fruit trees – Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are all attractive to baboons.*



- *Feeding them – Don't feed the baboons.*



Apart from the above:-

- *Don't leave pet food outside during day time.*
- *Keep fruit or any other food out of sight from windows and glass doors.*
- *Keep windows and doors closed.*
- *Secure those openings so that the baboons cannot enter.*
- *Partake and co-operate with baboon monitors and neighbours to discourage baboons collectively.*

What do we do when they are in our garden and homes:-

Remain calm



Remain calm and relaxed whenever in close proximity to baboons. This actually applies to all animals. Baboons are far better at reading body language than we are, and if we come across as threatening, they will become nervous and unpredictable and may be more likely to become aggressive. This is of course easier said than done, as it is obviously not easy to remain calm when you encounter a baboon in your house or car! But it is really important to do so. At the very least, when confronted by a baboon, lower your eyes and look at the ground in front of you. This will be less threatening to the baboon than staring directly at it.

Do not feed baboons



One of the biggest problems with the human-baboon interface is that baboons have learned that humans often carry food – and that this food is both easy to acquire and usually quite satisfying! The result of this is that baboons now associate humans with an easy meal. Whenever possible, we must avoid reinforcing this. Every time a baboon is successful at getting food from a human, it just exacerbates the problem. Thus, your first reaction upon seeing a baboon should be to hide your food and prevent the baboon(s) from seeing it or accessing it.

On the other hand, sometimes it is too late to do the right thing and you must simply minimize conflict. If a fearless baboon encounters you carrying food, he may try to take it away from you. In this case, it is probably best to simply let him have it.

Do not tease baboons



Some people like dangling food in front of a baboon. This is very dangerous. Do not deliberately provoke a wild animal? While baboons may look cute, they are not domesticated like dogs, and they will likely not respond well to food being hung just out of reach. Bottom line: this is a recipe for disaster.

Let the baboon have the bag



Many baboons have learned that backpacks and other bags contain food, and that humans will drop those bags at the least provocation, yielding a bounty for the baboon provocateur. If drive or walk around the estate and golf course area try not to bring any bags with you. If you bring a camera, carry it separately so that baboons will see that it is a camera and not food. And if a baboon tries to physically take a bag from you, do not try to take it back as this is very likely to lead to aggression. Let the baboon have the bag! The baboon will eventually get bored with it - even more quickly if there is no food inside - and you can then go pick it up.

