



Knysna
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Baboon hunter causes a stir

Baboon troops attracted to residential areas by the ready availability of food have been the cause of much irritation to residents of the Hunter's Home / George Rex area over the recent months. Damage have been caused to property and in some cases, some of the males have been quite aggressive.

Stephen Langlands from the Knysna Municipality said that they had meetings with residents and with Cape Nature to try and find the best solution for the problem. "Immediate interventions include the appointment of baboon monitors, and we are in the process of acquiring baboon-proof dustbins for residents in affected areas."

"We have also put out two RFQ's recently. One for a service provider, knowledgeable in managing similar situations, to assess the baboon affected areas by gathering information on the troop movement, size, etc. Once we have their report a management plan can be drawn up and implemented."

"The second RFQ for a professional hunter has caused much concern. The Municipality is not planning to cull any baboons. As the baboons, especially some males, have been quite aggressive this is a precautionary measure to make sure that should there be a life-threatening situation, we can act. This decision will be made with the guidance of the appointed service provider that did the research on the troops, as well as Cape Nature."

If there is a need to euthanize a baboon, the right steps will be followed and an application will be made with Cape Nature for the necessary permit. We sincerely hope the matter can be managed without having to take that decision."

ENDS

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