

# Living with Baboons

If you are lucky enough to live on the Urban Edge with baboon neighbours, it just takes a little preparation and understanding to live side by side peacefully. Baboons can cause expensive damage to your home (TV aerials make great swings!), but you can minimise costly repairs by ensuring you are not attracting baboons onto your property by unwittingly supplying them with easy food rewards.



## Effective waste management is essential

- Use upright **baboon-proof dustbins** for your waste;
- Secure baboon-proof bins to a **wall or post** so that baboons cannot knock the bin over;
  - If the bins fall to the ground the lid will pop open allowing **access to the waste** contained and creating a huge mess that you will have to clean up;
  - On days when **garbage is collected** remember to release the bin so that it can be moved.
- Make sure bins are **not over filled** – if the lid can't close properly the bin is not baboon-proof;
- Do not place black bags of garbage **alongside baboon proof bins**, if you need extra storage for your waste approach your municipality and get additional baboon proof bins;
- If your **neighbour** is not managing their waste properly, they will attract baboons into your area. Speak to your neighbours so that you are all working together towards reducing waste and not attracting baboons into your village.

## In your garden

- Use lockable bins for **composting**;
- Keep **dog food bowls** inside the house, not in the garden;
- Enclose **veggie garden and fruit trees** in baboon-proof fencing (see our web for some effective and affordable options – [www.baboonmatters.org.za](http://www.baboonmatters.org.za));
- Do not **feed birds or other wildlife** as the seeds are a huge attraction for baboons;
- If baboons do visit your property, the best way to get rid of them is to **spray them with a hosepipe** – they hate being sprayed!

## Your home

- Use **burglar bars** not more than 8cm apart to keep smaller baboons out;
- Do not leave **food visible** that can be seen through your windows. Bowls full of tempting fruits are an open invitation for an uninvited lunch guest!
- **A baboon in your house**
  - If a baboon gets into your house, don't panic, stay calm, take time to open doors and windows to **ensure he has an exit route**. Do not corner him;
  - Baboons **will not attack humans**, but taking that apple out of your hand may seem like an attack. Don't try to take food away from a baboon because he will fight for it. He will only defend himself or his troop members if he feels threatened;
  - Once there is a clear exit route you can **bang pots and pans and shout** to chase the baboons out. If you are not confident he will pick up on that and ignore you;
  - **Spray him** with a water pistol or water bottle.

## Your guest house and visitors

- If your holiday accommodation is situated near baboon territory, ensure your guests are well-informed and that all the precautions listed above are in place. Information brochures can be downloaded from Baboon Matters website - [www.baboonmatters.org.za](http://www.baboonmatters.org.za).