**Living with Wild animals in Rooiels**

We are very fortunate in Rooiels to live as close to nature as possible and passionate about conserving biodiversity. Although we have to adapt the way we live, and may at times get frustrated, it is one of the blessings of living here to be able to interact with wild animals and have them as part of our lives.

**Baboons**, **dassies** (Procavia capensis) and **mongoose** (mainly the Cape grey mongoose, Galerella pulverulenta) are with us all year. From time to time we have **Smith's red rabbit**(Pronolagus rupestris)visiting and **rooikat** (Caracal caracal) come to keep the dassie population in check!  At night if a shadow passes your door, or sniffing out your braai, it is the small-spotted **genet** (Genetta genetta). **Klipspringer** (Oreotragus oreotragus) live on Klein Hangklip but are so well camouflaged that although fairly common you only occasionally spot them when they are standing up on the rocks. The[leopard](https://rooiels.weebly.com/leopards.html) (Panthera pardus) is very rarely seen by any of us - but our camera traps record them quite frequently along the Rooiels river ravine and on Klein Hangklip. We have once had a **ratel or honey badger** (*Mellivora capensis***)** visit the camera!Go to the website to see photos. The [Cape clawless otters](https://rooiels.weebly.com/otters.html) (Anonyx capensis) makes its home along the shores of Rooiels and starred in a previous camera trap at the river. They eat kreef and fish in the sea but need to come to fresh water at least once a day. If you are lucky you may see them swimming at the beach or down at the cove in the Nature Reserve. Anyone living near the sea may hear them at night and from time to time you will definitely be able to smell their distinctive scat. **Cape grysbok**(Raphicerus melanotis) browsed in gardens in the past. Smaller mammals include the**Cape golden mole**  (Chrysochloris asiatica), the **Cape dune molerate** (Bathyergus suillus) and a range of rodents including the little four-striped mouse (Rhabdomys pumilio) and the quaint elephant shrews (Elephantulus edwardii).  We also have some alien larger mice and rat species that are a nuisance if our snakes and mongoose are not patrolling well.

**Tortoises** are found all over Rooiels.  Most common is the rooipens or duineskilpad, or angulate tortoise (Chersina angulata).  We ask you to drive slowly and give them right of way!  Please keep note of where and when you see them.  We are very keen for someone to see the parrot-beaked (Homopus areolatus) which should be found in Rooiels.  They are very small, excellent climbers and have a hooked beak.  Also keep a look out for the geometric tortoise (Psammobates geometricus) which is endemic to the Renosterveld but could possibly be found here. We are fortunate with a range of **frog** species including the relatively common A. villiersi which is endemic to the Western Cape where it is found on the slopes of the Hottentots Holland, Kogelberg, and Kleinrivier mountains and eastward to the Bredasdorp Mountains. It occurs from sea level at Rooi Els and Betty’s Bay, to altitudes of 1800 m.  The are many harmless **snakes** in Rooiels but do keep a look out for the puffadder which like to bathe in the sun and are more reluctant than other snakes to get out of the way. If you have a problem with a snake please call Geoff Harris 0282738164, Gert Coetzee 0836582504 or Ernst Thompson 0823331543. We also have a number of small lizards, gheckos and cameleons including the Bloukop (*Agama atra)* and the rare ……

We have [wonderful birdlife](https://rooiels.weebly.com/birds.html) with over 200 species recorded including the Cape Rockjumper, Victorin’s Warbler and sometimes Verreaux’s (Black) Eagles nest on Klein Hangklip.

Unfortunately we do not have much information on our insects even though they are a very important part of the biodiversity that we are conserving in Rooiels. The scorpions common here are mainly the brown variety with large pincers and a small tail.  They can give you a nasty sting but are not fatal.

Our marine life is also very rich and diverse. There is a [seal](https://www.mikel-photo.com/Blogs/A-walk-to-the-Rooiels-seals) colony living out on Roman Rocks, Bryde’s [whales,](https://rooiels.weebly.com/marine-mammals.html) dolphins and even occasionally Orcas can be seen all year round and from May to November (mostly in October) we see Southern Right and occasionally Humpback whales.

**Living with Baboons in Rooiels**

Baboons are not naturally aggressive towards humans or their pets.  They are essentially focused on your food.  For the sake of both the baboons and your sanity -  remove all food opportunities.  If confronted by a baboon drop the food you are carrying and they lose all interest in you.  Don't give them a fright when they are in your house or they void their bowels - be sure you are not blocking their exit and calmly insist they take what they have grabbed and leave.  Feeding, shooting or harming baboons is unlawful.

Baboons in Rooiels are a source of amusement, wonder and joy but also of frustration as they can be a nuisance and destructive when you haven't been able to keep them out of your house! [Learn More](https://rooiels.weebly.com/baboons.html) about the Baboons. Click for information on [what to do](https://rooiels.weebly.com/what-if-a-baboon-gets-in.html) if they get into your house or car and for [protecting your home](https://rooiels.weebly.com/how-to-protect-your-home.html) to reduce conflict

*We can include KBR and other Baboon pamphlets.*