**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.  They will protect their young if chased by a dog but unless they are being chased, they leave dogs alone.
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Most Rooielsers love living in wild nature and sharing our world with the baboons - but we do need to take precautions and we need to avoid feeding them so we can keep living with them. "Strategies to reduce baboon-human conflict should focus on reducing the benefits to baboons of seeking human-derived foods…(T)he onus is on property owners to adequately protect their property against these very adaptable, intelligent wild animals!"

Never feed baboons. They are not hungry and do not need your food. You could also be signing its death warrant. If fed regularly they will also become a serious pest for your neighbours.

Baboons are not predators – those big teeth are for protection, not hunting. They do not want to fight and have never bitten a person in Rooiels despite many years of close association. What may seem aggressive is actually fear:

* the fear grimace (i.e. when they pull their lips back from their teeth)
* running with their tail straight up
* high pitched screams and frantic movements
* defecating or urinating

**How to react when confronted with baboons**

**Calmly ensure that there is an exit – allow them to take what is in their hands, ensure that you are not between them and the exit – try to move behind them and gently herd them out.**

The large males can seem intimidating but they are after your food; not you. If faced with them, the key is not to panic. When walking drop the food you are carrying; if you have no food on you, they will just sit and watch you or continue feeding as you walk by. If they get into your house or car when you are there, let them take the food they have and be sure there is a clear exit path. Then firmly, but calmly, tell them to get out. The most important is to be sure that they have a way out.

Go to [What to do around baboons](https://rooiels.weebly.com/what-if-a-baboon-gets-in.html) on the website for more information.

**How to reduce access**

To prevent entry to your home, car and waste is the key to good baboon management. Our food is not good for them but is so much easier for them to get the calories they need. They can spend more time relaxing in the sun if they’ve raided your dustbin!

* Keep your car doors locked – they can open an unlocked door from outside but not from inside!
* Put in shutters, trellis-doors and burglar bars that have a 7cm maximum gap
* Keep doors locked – they can open door handles
* Put stoppers on sliding doors so that the cant lift them off the rail
* Ensure your baboon proof bin is secured well in the ground or take your waste out of Rooiels
* Vegetables and fruit must be grown in a greenhouse
* Use an electronic device if you have a pet flap
* Secure gutters to minimise their attraction as a jungle gym

Go to [Protecting your Home](https://rooiels.weebly.com/how-to-protect-your-home.html) to see tips on minimising baboon impact