



# TOO CLOSE

## BABOONS AND THE LAW

### BABOONS ARE PROTECTED

Under the *National Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974*, it is a criminal offense to use violence against Chacma baboons. The Ordinance defines “hunting” broadly to include any activity directed at a wild animal that involves searching for, killing, capturing, or attempting these actions. It also encompasses actions such as pursuing, following, or driving animals with the intent to kill, capture, shoot at, poison, lie in wait for, or deliberately disturb them. Therefore, under this Ordinance, it is illegal to use firearms, airguns, paintball guns, slingshots, whips, pepper spray, clubs, sticks, tasers, cages, poison, or any other means intended to harm or disturb baboons without the proper permits. Violations can result in penalties of up to R20,000 or imprisonment.

### USE OF WEAPONS

Discharging firearms or airguns in a built-up area constitutes a criminal offense under the *Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000*. A conviction may lead to imprisonment of up to five years, along with the offender being declared unfit to possess firearms. The Act also prohibits the display of toy guns resembling real weapons in residential areas. In addition, the *Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000* prohibits the display of toy guns that closely resemble real firearms in residential areas. This restriction is intended to prevent situations where such toys could be mistaken for real weapons, particularly in scenarios where an individual pretends to attack or threaten someone. Misleading others into believing an aggressor is armed with a real firearm—only to later reveal it was a toy—can cause unnecessary defensive actions, and pose significant risks to public safety.

### USE OF ARMED RESPONSE

As of 2024, standard armed response personnel and anti-burglar security companies are not trained nor provided with specific guidelines or provincial permits for correctly and legally dealing with baboons.

### SPEED ON THE ROAD

In South Africa, the regulation regarding speed limits in urban areas is regulated and governed by the National Road Traffic ACT 1996 and the National Road Traffic Regulation 2000. Some specific regulations regarding speed limits in urban areas in South Africa include, for residential areas, 40 km/h; for school zones, 30 km/h, during school hours; in pedestrian zones, 20 km/h or 30 km/h, depending on the specific zone; 60 km/h in suburban areas, unless otherwise indicated by road signs. According to the Criminal Procedure Act, It is a criminal offence to drive recklessly or negligently or at a speed that endangers the safety of others.

### CAN RANGERS ENTER YOUR PROPERTY?

Under the Municipal Systems Act of 2000, municipal officials and law enforcement officers may request reasonable access to private properties within the community. However, when it comes to the City’s appointed Baboon Rangers or any other officials, they must seek permission before entering private property, and property owners have the right to deny access.

As a property owner in Cape Town, you hold specific rights when officials approach you for entry. You are entitled to verify their authority by requesting identification and proof of their purpose. Additionally, you can require a clear explanation of the visit to ensure that the request is reasonable and complies with relevant laws and regulations. If you remain uncertain or feel uneasy about granting access, you have the right to refuse entry.

### NEM:BA OUTDATES CRUEL MANAGEMENT METHODS

The 2023 amendments to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA) prioritise animal well-being as a core objective. Defined in Section 2 as the animal’s ability to cope with its environment and maintain physical, physiological, and mental health and quality of life, this principle must now guide all management and conservation practices. Outdated practices, such as using violent deterrents like paintballing baboons or culling healthy alpha males, are now considered inconsistent with the Act.

For more information - <https://greengroupsimonstown.org/>