



## **MIND YOUR MONKEY MANNERS**

'Monkey manners' does not refer to the bad manners of monkeys, but rather a set of behaviours or actions to be learned by yourself and your friends and family, so that you will remain safe from these mischievous relatives of mankind. This informative article will assist you in 'minding your monkey manners', so that you will not act in ways that make monkeys mean.

Monkey problems do not exist because monkeys are mean, but because humans have been short-sighted. Humans have not managed other humans, forests and wildlife in such a way that there is enough space for all.

### **What are monkey problems and their cause?**

1. Today, there is less space between wild animals like monkeys and where people live. Monkeys find it easier to eat garbage around homes than to forage in a shrinking or crowded forest. Therefore, a growing number of monkeys are moving into human localities.
2. Many tourism sites have encouraged the feeding of monkeys for the entertainment of tourists, which has caused too many monkeys to learn bad habits.
3. These monkey groups thrive on the easily accessible, rich food and as their numbers increase, so does the problem.
4. The longer the problem persists, the bolder the animals become through familiarity.
5. Disease can be passed from people to monkeys to people. Such diseases are called "zoonoses".

### **You can do the following:**

- Prevent monkeys and other animals from accessing your garbage. At Zimbali, Members are required to place their refuse bags inside the green 'OTTO' wheelie bin, which must be wheeled to the verge on collection days. Ideally, the bins should be strapped in the closed position to prevent monkeys and other animals from damaging the bags and allowing the waste to be spread on the roads.
- Display signs at food or clubhouse facilities telling residents and their guests how destructive (and dangerous) it is to feed the monkeys. ZEMA is currently embarking on this exercise throughout the Estate. Members who rent their property as a holiday rental are encouraged to do the same by inserting notices within their premises to educate and warn their guests of the dangers of feeding monkeys.



## **“Mind Your Monkey Manners” Rules**

- Rule 1:** Don't feed monkeys and don't leave food where monkeys can easily access it.
- Rule 2:** Don't smile or show your teeth to monkeys.
- Rule 3:** Don't tease the monkeys by offering food and then jerking it away.
- Rule 4:** Don't try to scare monkeys away if you are alone, move away slowly always facing them.
- Rule 5:** Don't look monkeys directly in the eyes, as it can be interpreted by them as a threat.
- Rule 6:** Don't snarl or even smile at monkeys, as showing teeth means “hostile” to monkeys.
- Rule 7:** Don't show fear, as monkeys will interpret this as a weakness, meaning that you are safe to attack.
- Rule 8:** Don't go close to the monkeys; respect their territory.
- Rule 9:** Don't tease monkeys for any reason whatsoever.
- Rule 10:** Don't run up to monkeys, or run away from them.

## **Monkey see... Monkey do... Monkey dos... Monkey don'ts.....**

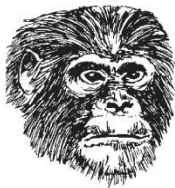
### **Monkey “Dos”**

1. Create a system for holding household garbage so that it doesn't attract monkeys.
2. Report destructive monkey individuals or troops to Miriam at the ZEMA Office on (032) 538-4300 to enable ZEMA to update the database and to better track delinquent monkeys. This system has been in operation since 2011 and has proved to be very successful in tracking problem troops.
3. If a monkey or troop habitually visits your area, ensure that your house is secure to prevent their entry.
4. Avoid being close to any wild monkey or troop, where possible. Since Zimbali is an eco-friendly estate, this may prove to be a challenge at times.
5. Avoid confrontation for both your safety and that of the monkey.

## Monkey “Don’ts”

1. Don’t feed monkeys or eat in front of them.
2. Don’t smile or show your teeth to monkeys; it symbolises aggression to them.
3. Don’t taunt or tease monkeys (e.g. by offering them food, then pulling it back). This is the cause of many confrontations, especially with small children holding on to sweets or food.
4. Don’t run from monkeys. If a monkey threatens you, stand your ground with a threat pose. It is better, however, to avoid close contact with monkeys entirely.
5. Don’t try and fight off a monkey if it grabs something of yours. You are more valuable than anything you carry.

## Gallery of monkey expressions



Aggressive



Frustrated



Playful



Submissive



Excited or  
frightened



Very excited or  
frightened

These facial expressions and their meaning can give you a good idea of how easy it might be to misunderstand a monkey. There are several expressions that might look “friendly” but actually reflect fear or excitement. It is better never to try and interact with monkeys. Even a small monkey can be very fast and very strong – don’t take the risk. Monkey bites are dangerous!

*[Edited version of “Monkey Manners” by Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organisation]*

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