

# ADVISORY ON KEEPING MONKEYS AT BAY



Monkeys used to roam about and feed freely in the forest. With urbanisation, the interface between monkeys and humans increased. Some monkeys are drawn out of the forest and being innately curious, they may visit our homes to explore or to seek food.

Feeding monkeys does not help them in any way. When the monkeys get used to being fed, they reduce their natural inclination to forage in the forest. Having been conditioned to recognise plastic bags and other containers as food sources, they may instinctively grab these items when they see them.

One way to help monkeys return to the forest is to minimise contact with them. Turn the page for suggestions on how you can prevent monkeys from entering your home and what you can do when you encounter them.

# HOW TO PREVENT MONKEYS FROM ENTERING YOUR HOME

## 1) MONKEY-PROOF YOUR HOME

- **Install window mesh/grilles on windows and doors.**  
*This allows for ventilation while preventing monkeys from gaining access to your premises.*
- **Close all windows and doors, including bathroom windows, when monkeys are spotted in the vicinity or when no one is at home.**  
*Monkeys tend to stay in an area only for a short period of time if they are unable to find food. Also, most have a regular travelling pattern and timing. It will be helpful to note those timings and ensure that all access points are secured during those periods.*
- **Secure pet entrances to prevent access by monkeys.**  
*Small pet entrances to allow cats and dogs to get in and out during the day can be used by monkeys to gain access into your home. Ensure such entrances are latched when not in use.*

## 2) KEEP FOOD OUT OF SIGHT

- **Food can be stored in ovens/microwaves/cabinets, or covered in opaque containers.**  
*Without visible food sources, your home is less attractive to monkeys.*
- **Keep prayer offerings within the house.**
- **Use recyclable cloth bags when walking home with groceries.**  
*As monkeys recognise plastic grocery bags as food sources, they are likely to try to snatch the bags. Cloth bags and backpacks are less attractive to them.*

## 3) MANAGE YOUR REFUSE

- **Double-knot your garbage bag and dispose it in bins. Secure the lid with an elastic strap or bungee cord as shown in the picture.**  
*Secured trash bins make it less likely for monkeys to scour for food in your neighbourhood. Double-knotting your garbage bag will prevent spills and make food waste less accessible to monkeys.*
- **Keep your lawn and surrounding areas litter-free.**  
*Monkeys are innately curious and drawn to litter, such as food containers and soda cans. By keeping your lawn and the area around your home free of litter, you can discourage the monkeys from coming in.*



## 4) HARVEST YOUR FRUITS

- **Harvest fruits regularly and/or cover them with an opaque material.**  
*In the forest, fruit trees are natural sources of food for the monkeys. If you own a fruit tree, harvest the fruits regularly, or cover them with an opaque material (e.g. gunny sack) to keep them out of sight from the monkeys.*

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER MONKEYS

### AT HOME

If monkeys enter your house:

1. Stop whatever you are doing immediately.
2. Remain calm and quiet. Do not make sudden movements and do not maintain direct eye contact with the monkeys.
3. Look for an exit for the monkeys.
4. Without cornering the monkeys, keep hitting the ground with a stick OR direct a strong jet of water at the monkeys to lead them towards the exit.
5. Alternatively, move to a safe place and wait for the monkeys to leave.
6. Do not try to hit the monkeys.
7. If you have a child with you, put him/her on your shoulders. This will increase your perceived size, which could deter the monkeys from approaching you and your child.

### IN THE OPEN

If monkeys approach you:

1. Stop whatever you are doing immediately.
2. Remain calm and quiet. Do not make sudden movements and do not maintain direct eye contact with the monkeys.
3. Look away and back off slowly. Do not turn away from the monkeys and run.
4. If you are holding an object which is attracting the monkeys, conceal or discard it.
5. Do not try to hit the monkeys.
6. If you have a child with you, put him/her on your shoulders. This will increase your perceived size, which could deter the monkeys from approaching you and your child.
7. Keep away from the area until the monkeys have left.

*Living in harmony with nature can become a reality for residents in the neighbourhood. The community needs to play their role to help the monkeys return to the forest and regain their natural behaviour of foraging.*

**If you have further queries, please contact NParks Animal Response Centre at 1800-476-1600 or through the OneService App (<http://www.mnd.gov.sg/mso/mobile-installation.htm>)**