



### Grootvlei Residential Estate Home Owners Association.

#### Monthly Newsletter

July 2018

#### Important Contact Details:

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Speeding is a great concern for many residents. Please stay under 30Km/h. Speeding endangers our children.**
- **Please do not dump your refuse on other stands or along Grootvaly Road.**
- **When Pedestrians come to visit, they must use the turnstiles, for safety reasons. The guard will call you stating that the visitor is a pedestrian and asking you to dial \*9. As soon as you dial \*9 the system will issue an entrance/exit code. This code can only be used for 1 entry and 1 exit at the turnstiles, then expires.**
- **Be Careful of who you open booms for, random opening & walking through the booms, jeopardises all our safety.**
- **Report all incidents of crime no matter how trivial**
- **We all bought in Grootvlei because we saw how peaceful, safe, neat and tidy it is. Do Not Be The One To Destroy It!**

## Security and Crime.

By Clive

We were having many incidents of crime and trespassing, perpetrated by person/s living in the complex, on every occasion we did not have any fence alarms or visible signs of entry or exit. These incidents seem to have thankfully and mysteriously come to an end.

We had residents in phase 2 & 3 call for emergency meetings regarding these incidents, the first one was held on Sunday 10/06/2018. A few concerns were raised, regarding guards patrolling, alarm systems and SAPS

patrols, so a follow-up meeting was to be held on Tuesday 12/06/2018. At this meeting we arranged for the CPF Sector 4 commander to attend and answer resident's questions. This meeting turned into a fiasco of such proportions that the commander stated that he will not address residents again, he would only communicate through a formally elected CPF committee.

I unfortunately was called back to work before this meeting and could not attend, but when I was given feedback from various sources, I was totally

discussed and demoralised. I expected residents to have much better personnel control and not turn a meeting into a free for all, shouting in such a way that no-one could talk or be heard, minutes could not even be taken, as everyone was talking and shouting at the same time.

Please all incidents of crime must be reported to SAPS then the case number brought to the office, for our follow-up investigations. When observing security breaches at gates or the fences please report to Office, Clive or Louis.

### Additional security.

We contacted various security companies for quotes on the same as what we have at present, i.e. 24-hour guards at our 3 gates with armed response on fence alarms, serious issues at the gates and regular supervision. The cheapest quote was R15 000.00 more than what we are paying now.

#### Patrols in the complex during the night.

Two Guards on bicycles at phase 1 and another two guards on bicycles at phase 2 & 3 patrolling from 18H00 to 06H00 every night.

This includes the real-time tagging system to make sure that patrols are done throughout the night.

This will cost us R51 100.00 per month, which equate to an increase in levies of around R125.00 per stand.

#### Personal home Alarm Systems.

SA Security Alarms also gave us a quote for the installation of personal alarm systems in our homes.

They offered a 36-month contract in which they supply, install and monitor the system at an all included monthly charge plus the communication radio yearly charge. If they have many installed alarm systems, they will dedicate a patrol vehicle to the estate as well.

The monthly rental with monitoring is R320.00 Ex VAT or R368 incl VAT plus the yearly radio licence of R235.00.

## How can we improve our security without incurring costs?

- ✓ Get to know your neighbours so that you know when strangers are on their property.
- ✓ We must be vigilant and report suspicious activity as we see it, try to get a photo.
- ✓ If you see someone loitering around a property, please report it and if possible take photos.
- ✓ Reporting is anonymous and in the interest of everyone's security.
- ✓ Make sure that we are not placing things that can be used to climb on, against the boundary walls, as this makes it easy for criminals to get up onto the walls.
- ✓ Adhere to contractor's agreements, especially with regards to entry/exit procedure, deliveries and movement around the complex, workers may not walk the streets during the day and may not stay overnight.
- ✓ All pedestrians must use the turnstiles, if you walk through the booms, the boom cannot detect a motor vehicle, so it stays open until the timer times out. This allows vehicles to race through an open boom.
- ✓ Declare or report missing or stolen tags so that they can be disabled.
- ✓ Have Domestic workers and transport tags setup for limited time access. Otherwise these tags can be used to gain access 24/7. You may be the one who gets robbed.
- ✓ When the guard at the gate calls, make sure that you know who you open for, DO NOT just press 9.
- ✓ If you get to the gate and you see someone there who is struggling to get access, DO NOT tag them in, they may not be who they say they are.
- ✓ There are many methods used by criminals to get access into our home, even during the day, saying that they are from Telkom, the Council, government departments, etc. They may even have fake IDs, DO NOT open for them.

## Re-scanning of tags

In an effort to remove missing, lost and illegal tags, we have added expiry dates to all tags. This means we all must bring our tags to the office for rescanning, this rescan extends the expiry date by 1 year. Please, if you have tags for gardeners, domestic workers, children's transport, etc. when you

have the tag rescanned, let Tracy to add day/time limits to the tag, this prevents the tag from being used in the middle of the night. Our tags are a key part of our safety, we must have full control over them, please do not give non-residents 24/7 access.

To prevent long queues, the rescanning is being done according to house numbers, 1300 to 1499 has been done already. SMS messages are sent to the group of houses due for scanning, see the schedule below.

- ❖ 1300 – 1399 was from 01-05-2018 – 30-05-2018
- ❖ 1400 – 1499 was from 01-06-2018 – 30-06-2018
- ❖ 1500 – 1599 is from 01-07-2018 – 31-07-2018
- ❖ 1600 – 1999 is from 01-08-2018 – 31-08-2018
- ❖ But anyone can come and scan their tag when passing the office, you don't have to wait until your month.

## Pests

### Termites and ants.

We have several types of ants and termites that invade our homes, here are some ways of reducing their numbers.

Termites (flying ants) eat away at all the wooden structures in our homes including wooden floor boards and roof trusses, they need to be eradicated.

Do not use illegal poisons, they do not stop killing once the target pest has been killed

#### **Fendona®**

A high performance residual insecticide spray treatment with rapid knockdown.

**Fendona®** is the first-choice spray treatment for insect pests. It is a high performance residual insecticide with a broad spectrum of action against a large variety of insect pests. Fendona it

is children and pet friendly, it's diluted with water and sprayed as per directions, keeps ants and termites and other insects at bay. Remember it is crucially important to read and follow the instructions, you are dealing with a poison which could affect your health.



There are some natural remedies, these take longer but they do work.



- Orange Oil. If you want to know how to get rid of **termites** in the most ecologically friendly way, then the answer is orange oil. ...
- Hot and Cold Treatment.
- Boric Acid.
- Cardboard Traps.
- Essential Oils. ...
- Aloe Vera Gel.
- Table Salt.
- The other option is to get professionals in to do an investigation and apply the appropriate method for your infestation
- Here is a link for more information, were these methods are discussed in more depth

[https://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKewjK6Luy9f\\_bAhWLAAsAKHSMtB0sQFghQMAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.homeremedyhacks.com%2F14-useful-home-remedies-to-get-rid-of-termites%2F&usg=AOvVaw1cMIWw2EgC39qnb29jkeea](https://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKewjK6Luy9f_bAhWLAAsAKHSMtB0sQFghQMAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.homeremedyhacks.com%2F14-useful-home-remedies-to-get-rid-of-termites%2F&usg=AOvVaw1cMIWw2EgC39qnb29jkeea)

## Snakes. Rinkhals the facts

By far, the most commonly seen snake in our area is the Rinkhals or Ring neck Cobra, classified as Very Dangerous. Their mating season is between June and August when males are more aggressive, but bites are rare and fatalities unheard of. Keep your garden clear of hiding places, rate, mice, bird aviaries, etc. this will help to keep them away.



They are also found in Lesotho and western regions of Swaziland with an isolated population believed to be located in the central Zimbabwe

and Mozambique border.

The Rinkhals has adapted to inhabit a variety of habitats, and can be found from the sea level to mountains at higher altitudes up to 2500 m. It is usually found in moist grassland with rainfall, where it's easier to blend into the surrounding environment.

But it can also be found in swamps, marshes, moist lowlands and wetlands, is commonly found on the highveld regions avoiding bushveld regions. The Rinkhals has also adapted quite well to human urban development.

The species is also called the ringhals which derives from the Dutch "ring hals" meaning "ringed neck" because of the light colour crossbands usually found around their throat. They are sometimes also called ring-necked spitting cobra for the same reason.

The Rinkhals is a small to medium sized snake species, it usually reaches 90 cm to 120 cm in length, but can reach up to 1,5 m. They are bulkier when compared to other similar sized cobra species. Their head is short

and pointed, with fairly large, black eyes.

The Rinkhals coloration varies throughout its range, with some individuals being mostly black or greyish. They do have a characteristic darker belly usually dark brown or black with 1 to 4 white, pale cream or yellow coloured crossbands on the throat area. Their scales are strongly keeled yet another distinction from true cobras. As usual the Rinkhals is regarded as an aggressive snake, when in fact like most snakes they will do virtually anything to avoid a confrontation. In true cobra style the Rinkhals will rear up and spread a hood and hiss loudly. They will also spit venom with extreme accuracy up to 2 meters of distance, usually aiming to the face or eyes.

Sometimes they will convincingly feign death, and sometimes people get bitten when picking up what seems to be a dead snake, not a good idea. The Rinkhals is usually a nocturnal species, but sometimes it may be observed basking in the sun during the day.

## Venom / Bite

The Rinkhals venom is mostly composed of strong neurotoxins, but it has also as a small amount of cytotoxins. When compared to the venom of other African elapids, it's much more fluid with less viscosity, making it easier to spit.

Their venom glands have a capacity of 80 to 120 mg. The estimated lethal dose is for humans is around 50 to 60 mg and the average yield per bite is around 100 mg.

Their venom effects are not as severe as those of other cobra species, and usually include pain, bruising and swelling in bite area, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, vertigo and abdominal pain.

However, if a bite occurs on an extremity like a finger there is a real danger of amputation, because of the bite's very severe local effects. Other neurological effects may also

manifest including general paralysis and difficulty breathing, which could eventually lead to death.

But since the Rinkhals tends to spit rather than injecting venom there are actually few bites to humans. They are quite capable of aiming and usually spit their venom at the face or eyes, and if the eyes are hit the victim may experience an excruciating pain, blurred vision and even permanent blindness, if the venom is not washed off quickly. It's also uncertain that the Rinkhals ever caused a human fatality, but any bite from one, is potentially lethal and should be treated seriously. Dogs however get bitten quite often when they attack these snakes.

These snakes have fixed frontal fangs located on the upper jaw, with a venom canal running through each fang. The fangs are specially modified for spitting

because the discharge hole is facing to the front at a 90-degree angle not down. This distinctive feature allows them to spit or spray venom at an attacker,



particularly targeting the eyes. But unlike true spitting cobras like the Mozambique spitting cobra, that can spit venom in a horizontal position, the Rinkhals has to rear up to spit venom.

## Diet / Feeding

The Rinkhals has a fairly diverse diet, feeding on almost anything it can catch and kill. They prey mostly on rodents like rats and

mice and frogs or toads, but will take small mammals, amphibians, birds and bird's eggs, lizards and even other snakes. Juvenile

snakes feed primarily on lizard and toad eggs.

## Reproduction

The Rinkhals is quite unique amongst African cobra species since unlike other true cobras it is ovoviviparous. They don't lay eggs these are live-bearing snakes. The mating season occurs from June until August with the young snakes being born usually from late December up to late February or early March. During the mating season the males behave more aggressively, and they will fight for dominance with rival males. They go as far as sometimes even biting the female during copulation which can be fatal for the female. The Rinkhals gestation period lasts around 5 to 6 months during which the embryos develop inside of the

female's body. They are kept within a clear membrane without an egg shell, until these baby snakes are ready to be born.



During gestation the female does not eat particularly in the latter half of this period, because of her bulk. When the babies are fully developed, the female lays the embryos usually in an abandoned burrow. Then the hatchlings use a

sharp egg tooth located on the snout to break off the protective membrane and wander off to fend for themselves. They receive no parental care. The Rinkhals gives birth around 20 to 35 young snakes, but as many as 65 hatchlings have been recorded in a single clutch. The young snakes are almost exact replicas an adult Rinkhals, although much smaller, being only about 15 to 20 cm in length. They are usually grey-toned with characteristic white bands around the throat being usually very visible at birth, they become black when they reach about 1 meter in length.

## Rodents. Rats & Mice

Rats are some of the smartest animals on the planet, but they are also one of the biggest disease-spreading pests around. That's why so many people wonder how to get rid of rats in a natural, safe way, and that curiosity has spiked recently. It turns out, rats don't just carry filth and annoying disease — they can be lethal. In fact, recently in New York City three people became severely ill, (one of them even died), due to the rare disease leptospirosis. According to the NYC Health Department: "Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that is most commonly spread by contact with rat urine and is very rarely spread from person to person."

However rare, the disease can be lethal, evidenced by the New York death. And that's not the only disease rats spread. Thankfully, if you're wondering how to get rid of rats, there are natural, effective ways to do so, without harmful rat poison

## How to Get Rid of Rats the Natural Way

Go to any department store and you'll find plenty of rodent traps and repellents. A sizable portion of those contain poison rat bait, and that's something you might not want any part of. For starters, rats and other rodents typically make their way to your food, which means you probably put traps near your pantry, shelves, oven, refrigerator, and so on. If the poison bait is strong enough to kill rats and mice, what do you think that poison will do to humans? Certainly nothing good — which means you don't want that stuff anywhere near you or your food.

Most of these are toxic and cause damage to humans, animals and the environment in large quantities.

Children are naturally curious, and given that most rat poisons taste sweet, this can be a lethal combination. The same is true for your pets.

We're talking highly toxic ingredients like warfarin, chlorophacinone, diphacinone, bromadiolone, difethialone, brodifacoum, bromethalin, cholecalciferol, zinc phosphide and strychnine, among others.

**Boric acid** mixed with peanut butter, is a less dangerous chemical that can be used to get rid of rodents, but it's still toxic if ingested and poses hormone disruption risks to humans.

That's why it's always better and safer to use natural, humane options. Here are some ways to get rid of rats naturally:

### 1. Traps

While there are non-toxic rat baits out there, the reviews are mixed. So, if you're looking to use a store-bought remedy, traps seem to be the most effective. As for traps, while traditional mouse traps can work on rats as well, they do kill the rodents. They are not toxic, of course, which is a plus, but if you're looking not to harm any animals, you can use catch and release traps that contain the pests. If you opt for glue traps, make sure to use a natural glue.

### 2. Essential Oils

Essential oils are tremendous for people wondering how to get rid of rats in a safe, non-toxic way.

Rats and mice cannot take the pungent odour of peppermint oil, making it a safe, natural repellent that comes with no harm to humans or the animals. Place drops of peppermint near the areas that are prone to rats, such as openings, near the pantry, etc. Like peppermint, citronella oil — known to repel mosquitos and other insects — can also dissuade rats. Again, it is the strong smell that rats dislike.

Another effective essential oil for how to get rid of rats is eucalyptus. Just be cautious. Eucalyptus oil is not recommended around cats, either.

### 3. Owl's Feather

Rats are extremely smart creatures, and research shows they'll adjust their behaviours to their surroundings. This includes threats and perceived threats. As studies conducted by the Department of Zoology at Tel-Aviv University show, rodents learn how to move and then avoid attacks from owls. Thus, when rodents see owls or signs of owls, they typically avoid those areas or flee. Thus, keeping an owl feather near holes and areas of rat infestations can drive them out.

### 4. Peppers

Capsaicin is the active compound in peppers that gives them their heat. It turns out, that heat can also work as a wonderful way for answering the question of how to get rid of rats.

The New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University tested capsaicin as a repellent to rodents in poultry feed. What the researchers found was quite promising: "Use of capsaicin-treated feed on poultry farms may substantially reduce feed contamination by rodents and ultimately the incidence of Salmonella infection in poultry." So, if you are wondering how to get rid of rats, try sprinkling chili pepper powder, where the rats reside, and they may not be able to stand the heat.



## 5. Onion

The pungent odour of onions is a natural repellent to rats and other rodents. Much like some humans dislike the smell (and taste) of onions, the same is true for rats. You can slice up onion and put it near the rat-infested area to help drive them away.

### Rat Trap and Repellent Tips

- For natural ways of how to get rid of rats to work, you need to keep a few things in mind:
- Place along walls in low-light settings where rats travel. Some common areas to put traps include under furniture, in closets and along walls. You can also cut holes in boxes in these areas and trap them.
- Use bait that rats consume: peanut butter, cheese, nuts or fish.
- Place traps without setting them so rats become accustomed to them. They're smart, so if they see a trap work, they'll avoid it.
- The type of trap matters just as much as bait. Figure out the type of rat and its size so you can find the appropriate trap and bait according to the rat's habits.

### Most Common Diseases Rats Spread

Why is it so important to learn how to get rid of rats and avoid them whenever possible? According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, rodents, including rats, can directly transmit the following diseases:

- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome — lung infection virus caused by contact or breathing in rat urine or faeces, or even from rat bites
- Haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome — a group of similar illnesses characterized by fever and renal failure caused by contact, bites or breathing in rat urine or faeces
- Lassa fever — an acute viral haemorrhagic illness caused by contact or breathing in rat urine or faeces, rat bites, or eating food contaminated with rodent urine or droppings
- Leptospirosis — bacterial infection caused by contact with rat urine through contaminated food, water or soil
- Plague — deadly bacterial disease if not treated; caused by infected flea bite or direct contact with an infected animal
- Rat-bite fever — bacterial infection caused by bite or scratch from a rat, contact with a dead rodent, or eating/drinking food with contaminated rat faeces
- Salmonellosis — food poisoning caused by rat faeces leeching into food
- Rats and other rodents can also indirectly transmit cutaneous leishmaniasis, human granulocytic anaplasmosis, murine typhus, scrub typhus, relapsing fever and more.

## How to Get Rid of Rats using poisons



Legal rat poisons are designed to either dehydrate the rodent or thin or thicken the blood so much that it dies. It usually takes about 10 days from ingestion before death, and the poison stops the normal

decomposition of the body, which stops that horrible dead smell. Poisons must be placed in places where children and pets can't get to them, like in the rear of fridges and freezers, in the ceiling, etc.

**DO NOT use illegal poisons** like "DDT" or "2 step" (a black fine flake, usually sold in small amounts for R5.00), these poisons do not die with the rodent. A cat, dog or bird that happens to eat the dead rodent will also be killed and you do not want your child to ingest these poisons accidentally, small amounts can be deadly.

Always think of the consequences of your actions before acting. You don't want to land up in a jail cell, which is still nowhere near as bad as the feelings of sorrow, remorse and guilt, you must live with, when your actions lead to the death of a child.



# Construction Work along Grootvaly Rd between Gate3 and Welgedacht Rd

Mologadi A Nape will be constructing alongside of Grootvaly and Welgedacht road. The project is expected to generate high volumes of traffic during the construction phase. It is therefore important to ensure that traffic is managed in a manner that facilitates efficiency as well as ensuring the safety of personnel and the local community.

This plan has been prepared to enable Mologadi A Nape to identify and implement all legal and best practice requirements in respect of the management of traffic associated with the project. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that traffic management is undertaken in a safe and efficient manner. As such, the management of traffic in terms of this plan is intended

to avoid and minimise traffic risk to (and impacts on) the health and safety of the local community and any other personnel on site during the project the requirements of this plan shall apply to all construction personnel including any subcontractor appointed to provide vehicles, machinery or drivers for the project

## **In-order to allow for this construction, traffic flow will need to be re-routed as follows:**

- Only one lane will be closed off at the entrance of the Estate from Grootvaly road
- Motorist will be sharing one lane
- Drivers are to be aware that there will be traffic flagmen placed whenever activities take place
- The work will be carried out from 8:00 to 16:30 Monday to Friday

**Please be patient and drive carefully**

**Thank you to all those residents who, by complying with our simple rules, are keeping Grootvlei Residential Estate as one of the most neat, tranquil and safe areas to live in.**