

The Clara Anna Fontein development is based on the principles of an Eco-Lifestyle Estate in a secure environment. The vision is to create a balance between conservation and development and all efforts are being made to ensure harmonious co-existence to create a sustainable residential neighbourhood with open spaces, community facilities, commercial activities, a retirement village and schooling facilities situated on the NW urban edge of Durbanville.

## 1. Purpose of the policy

This Policy Document is a directive for human-environmental coexistence and interaction within the spatial boundaries of the Clara Anna Fontein Lifestyle Estate (CAF). The policy exists in the context of the Environmental Authorisation (EA), the Water Use License Application (WULA) and the Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) for CAF. This policy will be amended from time to time, with additions and deletions as deemed necessary by CAFPOA Board of Trustees and within relevant legislative changes. The policy is based on well documented third-party research informing best integrated environmental management practices.

## 2. Policy Statement

The natural environment is a renewable resource with potential to provide a multitude of utilitarian and non-utilitarian benefits to property owners, residents, and visitors. In the context of this policy, wildlife means all wild, indigenous species of animals and plants, comprising species and forms with beneficial, potentially harmful, or neutral effects towards humans. Managed appropriately, the wildlife resources will simultaneously promote the conservation of biological diversity as well as contribute to the CAFPOA economy. Therefore, the CAFPOA regards this resource as a valuable asset whose integrity needs to be conserved to the maximum extent possible. It further considers wildlife conservation and management as a legitimate form of land use which can be superior to alternative land use schemes, given the institutional framework summarised in this policy document.

## 3. Applicability

To manage the environment responsibly and effectively necessitate the acceptance and implementation of the policy by the complete CAF community inclusive of property owners, residents, and visitors in order to;

- I. Prevent the degradation of the environment, in particular the Uitkamp Wetland and headwaters of the Mosselbank river;
- II. Conserve and enhance the biological diversity in CAF;
- III. Provide a healthy living and working environment for the property owners, residents, and visitors alike, and;
- IV. Conserve and sustain the biodiversity by limiting human-environmental impact.

The mitigations and guidelines presented in this policy are neither in disagreement with nor do they supplant any National, Regional legislation, or the CAF Constitution or Estate specific Rules and Regulations. Non-compliance will be met with corrective actions and procedures against the offenders as contained in the CAF Constitution and Estate Rules & Regulations.

## 4. Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles

### 4.1 Goal

The goal of the environmental and wildlife policy is to ensure proper conservation and management of the environmental and wildlife resources on CAF in order to;

- (i) provide and foster a harmonious coexistence between humans, their pets and wildlife in a peri-urban wildlife interface;

- (ii) for sustainable utilisation and equitable access to the resources and fair sharing of the benefits from the resources for both present and future generations.
- (iii) Increase the situational awareness of property owners, residents and visitors and improve their understanding of the local ecosystem
- (iv) Educate and inform best practice in the promotion and understanding of nature in relation to the increased exposure of the environment to pets, the increase of human impact in relation to accessibility of wildlife to food and shelter, and the permeability of the Estate boundaries to wildlife.

#### 4.2 Objectives

In order to achieve these goals, this policy seeks to meet the following objectives:

- (i) Ensure the adequate protection of representative ecosystems and its biological diversity through promotion and adoption of appropriate environmental management practices, that adhere to the principle of sustainable use.
- (ii) Enhance public awareness and understanding of the importance of wildlife conservation and management and its close relationships with other forms of land use.
- (iii) Take the necessary legislative steps as well as pertinent enforcement measures to curtail illegal interaction with wildlife.
- (iv) Create an enabling environment for wildlife and ecology-based education for CAF.
- (v) Develop a cost-effective legal, administrative, and institutional framework for managing wildlife resources without compromising the special ecological attributes of the resources.

#### 4.3 Guiding Principles

- (i) Management of the environmental resources shall rest with the CAFPOA on behalf of and for the benefit of property owners, residents, and visitors. These rights and responsibilities shall be exercised within the limits of pertinent legislation.
- (ii) Wildlife and Environmental legislation will be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in the policy framework.
- (iii) Wildlife management is an exceptionally complex activity in which many factors are unknown or not fully understood. Therefore, an adaptive management strategy is appropriate. This particularly applies to sustainable resource utilisation where current and acceptable approaches need to be incorporated, research and monitoring will need to be integral components of each act of management.
- (iv) Within ecologically acceptable limits, wildlife and environmental resources should be managed in a manner which is economically productive and sustainable.
- (v) Adequate conservation and management of wildlife resources is dependent on public understanding and appreciation.
- (vi) The safety of humans is a priority, and this policy aims to mitigate impacts for humans, the environment and wildlife within the parameters of the applicable legislation;
- (vii) Conflict minimisation emphasises preventative practices including reducing the likelihood of encounters through the reduction of attractants and appropriate avoidance responses.
- (viii) Wildlife, including natural predators must be allowed to roam freely on the Estate's conservation areas and Private Open Spaces (POS) and no animal is allowed to be harmed, handled or fed.
- (ix) Rehabilitation of the Uitkamp Wetland and Mosselbank river headwaters.
- (x) Removal of Alien vegetation and re-establishment of the Renosterveld vegetation.

### 5. Definitions

- **Biodiversity** refers to the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
- **Environment** means the surroundings within which humans exist and that are made up of;
  - Land, water, and atmosphere
  - Micro-organisms, plant, and animal life
  - Any part or combination of the above and the interrelationships amongst and between them
  - **Environmental impact** refers to any change to the environment, whether desirable or undesirable, that would result directly or indirectly from any human activity
  - **Wildlife** refers to but is not limited to any insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals

- **Wetlands** are areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Water saturation (hydrology) largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species.

## 6. Cognisant Office(s)/Getting Help

The following persons should be contacted in case of interpretations of the policy and Estate Rules & Regulations, resolution of problems and queries as well as special situations like observation of Snakes, Bees, and the like;

- **CAF Security:** 083 870 9138 / security@claraannafonetin.co.za (All Hours)
- **Reception/Admin:** 021 110 5299 (Office Hours) / admin@claraannafontein.co.za

To enable peaceful coexistence, please follow these steps:

- **Manage your pets:** Dogs and cats must be under owners' direct control
- **Recognise your environment:** CAF is bordered on half its boundary by farmland and/or nature reserve that contain wild predatory animals that view pets as potential competition or prey
- **Do not engage with wild animals:** Keep your distance and do not confront any wild animal
- **Communicate:** Report all sightings and interactions to the Estate Security as soon as possible

## 7. Policy Authority: Clara Anna Fontein Property Owners Association (CAFPOA)

## 8. References for more information/Legal Context

The following is a list of the legislation pertinent to CAF. All activities must ensure compliance with the provisions of the relevant legislation, as applicable to the development at its various phases. This list is by no means considered as exhaustive and exclusion does not imply irrelevance:

- Atlantic Beach Homeowners Association – Human Wildlife Coexistence Brochure
- National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA)
- NEMA Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)
- Nature Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974
- Natural Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)
- The Land Use Planning Ordinance (Ordinance 15 of 1985)
- Environmental Authorisation (EA Ref: 14/3/10/A5/20/0133/16)
- Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP Ref: 2017/03)

## 9. Implementation Procedures

The requirements of the CAF Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) will form the basis of day-to-day operational management of the Estate to ensure that undue or unreasonably avoidable impacts of the development and operation of the Estate are avoided and that positive impacts are enhanced. This will support the greater objective of the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) which is aimed to promote sustainable development and underpins environmental process in South Africa.

This OEMP will incorporate the following measurables: Visual and Aesthetics, Historical Protection, Wetland Management, Socio-economic aspects, Fire and Emergency procedures, Invasive Alien Vegetation Clearing, Sustainable Water Use and Waste Management.

An environmental compliance audit will be performed in accordance with frequency requirements of the approved OEMP and reported to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

# WILDLIFE AWARENESS

## SAFE WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS AND YOUR PETS SAFETY DEPEND ON YOU

Considering the locality of Clara Anna Fontein on the northern urban edge of Durbanville, its proximity to open farmland, a private nature reserve on its western border, combined with its accessibility to wildlife from these areas, unavoidable wildlife encounters will require residents to be aware and proactive with regard to their personal safety and that of their pets.

FACTS	SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A variety of predators access the Estate on a regular basis, Caracal, Cape Grey Mongoose, Jackal Buzzard, and Snakes, to name but a few.</li><li>• Wild animals are adaptable and learn quickly.</li><li>• Wildlife maintain territorial ranges inclusive of urban areas.</li><li>• Wildlife play an important role in maintaining the ecosystem balance.</li><li>• Wildlife are opportunistic feeders and predators will prey on any animal that they are able to catch and kill.</li><li>• The wildlife species encountered on CAF are naturally indigenous to these parts of the Western Cape ecosystem and are protected by law.</li><li>• Porcupines even though not predatorial, might pose a danger to early morning runners and cyclist when surprised.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep pets inside at night, while most predatory wildlife is nocturnal, several species are also active during the day.</li><li>• Please note that Cape Mongoose, Jackal Buzzard, and snakes are known to be active during daylight hours.</li><li>• If approached do not run or engage the animal, rather make yourself big, shout and clap your hands.</li><li>• Share all sightings and incidents with the relevant managerial authorities.</li><li>• Do not allow pets to stray off private properties and onto POS or into the reserve where they are most at risk.</li><li>• Be aware of your surroundings and the environment which you share with a wide variety of wildlife.</li><li>• As far as possible limit exercise activities around the boundary fence and private open spaces to daylight hours.</li></ul>
<p><b>Please note NO DIRECT or physical endangerment is permitted. No projectiles, such as, but not limited to, slingshots and paintballs/guns may be used or any animal physically harmed.</b></p>	

**References:** The information here represent excerpts from the Atlantic Beach Estate Human Wildlife Coexistence Brochure, with kind permission from the Atlantic Beach Homeowners Association NPC (No2, Fairway Drive, Atlantic Beach Estate, Melkbosstrand, 7441)

# ENCOUNTERING SNAKES ON THE ESTATE - WHAT TO DO?

## What to do if you find a snake in or around your home?

- The first, and most important thing to do, is to **LEAVE THE SNAKE ALONE!** A snake will not attack if not provoked. When a snake does attack, it is more than likely that the snake found it necessary to defend itself. Do not lash out at the snake with violence, as many times, the snake is harmless to you.
- Immediately contact our **24hr Control Room** on **021 110 5294 / 083 870 9138** and they will dispatch one of the qualified snake catchers to relocate the snake safely.
- Keep the snake under observation from a safe distance.

## What to do if a human is bitten by a snake?

1. Mediclinic Durbanville is the closest Hospital to the Estate, and they are open 24 hours and equipped to deal with snake bites.
2. We strongly advise that snake bite victims be transported to Mediclinic Durbanville immediately. Phoning them on route to advise of your arrival and advising them of the type of snake will assist greatly. **Mediclinic Durbanville, Wellington Road, Durbanville, 021 980 2100**
3. Try to identify the snake and keep the victim calm, and as still as possible
4. If you don't feel comfortable transporting the snake bite victim yourself, you can do one of the following:
  1. Contact the Estate's 24hr Control Room on **021 110 5294 / 083 870 9138**, who will dispatch our operations officers and contact ambulance services.
  2. Contact ER 24 directly: **084 124**

## What to do if a pet is bitten by a snake?

1. **Tygerberg Animal Hospital (TAH) Bellville** is the closest veterinary Hospital to the Estate who are open 24 hours and equipped to deal with snake bites.
2. We strongly advise that pet snake bite victims be transported to **TAH Veterinary Clinic** immediately. Phoning them on route to advise of your arrival and advising them of the type of snake will assist greatly. **Tygerberg Animal Hospital (TAH) Bellville, 1 Kontiki Drive 021 919 1191**

## IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKEBITE DO NOT...

- DO NOT try to cut or suck out the venom. Snake venom very quickly attaches to the local tissue and is absorbed into the lymphatic system and very little venom can be removed by suction. Cutting may expose the wound to secondary infection.

- DO NOT apply any electric shock therapy. Electric shocks do not neutralise snake venom.
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet. Arterial or venous tourniquets are not advised in most bites as venom is initially transported largely through the lymphatic system and not through veins. There is no evidence that a tourniquet could be life-saving following a snakebite.
- DO NOT apply ice or warm water, lotion, or potions. Leave the bite site alone, except for cleaning it with cool water and applying a sterile gauze dressing. Warm water does not denature snake venom.

### **Do not give the victim alcohol.**

- DO NOT inject antivenom as a first aid measure. If required, antivenom must be injected intravenously by a medical doctor in a hospital environment and usually in large quantities. Anaphylactic shock can be a serious side-effect which may be fatal if not treated promptly

### **FIRST AID MEASURES FOR SNAKEBITES**

- Get the victim to a hospital as soon as possible and in a safe manner. Keep the numbers of the closest hospital (with a trauma unit) and ambulance service on your cell phone and call ahead to notify them of the victim's situation.
- Keep the victim calm and as still as possible. Muscle contractions speed up the movement of venom in the lymphatic system. Immobilise the victim, lay the victim down if possible and transport (or arrange transport) to the closest hospital. Elevate the affected limb slightly above heart level.
- Remove rings and tight clothing. If bitten on the hand, arm, foot, or lower leg, remove rings, bangles, bracelets, watches, anklets, and any other tight jewellery, as well as tight clothing and shoes.
- **IMPORTANT** - Do not waste valuable time applying a pressure bandage – immediately transport the patient to the nearest hospital with a trauma unit and, if possible, apply the pressure bandage whilst travelling.

While there are several snake species on the Estate which are not venomous, we would prefer residents to treat every snake as if they are venomous, avoid contact and immediately contact our 24hr Control Room on: **021 110 5294 / 083 870 9138**

**References:** The information here represent excerpts from the Atlantic Beach Estate Human Wildlife Coexistence Brochure, with kind permission from the Atlantic Beach Homeowners Association NPC (No2, Fairway Drive, Atlantic Beach Estate, Melkbosstrand, 7441)

## Who are at Risk of Bee Stings?

Most bee attacks can be traced back to some perceived provocation.

<p><b>This also offers some insight to who is most at risk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Someone deliberately disturbing the hive.</li> <li>• Person mowing the lawn and general landscape maintenance close to a hive.</li> <li>• Someone causing a vibration or noise within close proximity to a hive.</li> <li>• Climbing a tree or disturbing dense vegetation</li> <li>• Electrician at a sub-station where a hive may be found</li> <li>• Person working on Irrigation valve boxes</li> <li>• Building maintenance personnel</li> <li>• Children playing in close proximity to a hive, kicking and retrieving balls from trees/vegetation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Beehives are most likely to be found:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inside hollow trees, or in walls, attic, and eaves etc.</li> <li>• Nests that hang from branches or overhangs such as eaves of a building.</li> <li>• In shrubs, bushes, hedges, or on tree limbs.</li> <li>• Near garbage and empty containers.</li> <li>• In rubber tires, crates, boxes, landscaping features, irrigation control boxes etc.</li> <li>• Under shrubs, logs, piles of rocks and other protected sites.</li> <li>• Inside rodent burrows or other holes in the ground.</li> <li>• Structures such as fixed electrical sub-stations.</li> </ul>
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## What are the hazards and health risks of getting stung by bees?

Most stings will only result in a temporary injury but sometimes it may be more threatening and even life-threatening. Signs and symptoms from getting stung:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non-systematic symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain, swelling, itching, skin redness and a wheal around the sting sometimes spreading to a larger area.</li> <li>• Swelling can sometimes be severe. For instance, if stung on the finger, the arm may be swollen even up to the elbow.</li> <li>• Getting stung in the throat area of your neck could cause edema (swelling caused by fluid build-up in the tissues) around the throat and may make it difficult to breathe.</li> <li>• This swelling is a mild allergic reaction and can last a few days. The area will be sore and uncomfortable, but one should not give in to the temptation to scratch the stung area.</li> <li>• Scratching the area could lead to an infection.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Systematic symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In rare cases, a severe allergic reaction can occur. This situation is serious and can cause "anaphylaxis" or anaphylactic shock.</li> <li>• Symptoms of anaphylaxis can appear immediately (within minutes) or up to 30 minutes later.</li> <li>• Allergic reactions may include rash or hives, dizziness or headache, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, swelling not in the general area of the sting, shortness of breath or difficulty swallowing, shock, and unconsciousness.</li> <li>• This could also include swollen eyes and eyelids, wheezing, hoarse voice or swelling of the tongue.</li> <li>• Other symptoms are dizziness or sharp drop in blood pressure, shock, unconsciousness, or cardiac arrest, severe headache and diarrhoea.</li> </ul>
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**Only about one or two out of 1000 of the population is allergic or hypersensitive to bee or wasp stings. The average person can safely tolerate 10 stings per pound of body weight. Most deaths caused by multiple stings have occurred in elderly individuals who may have had poor cardiopulmonary functioning.**

## **Preventative measures to avoid getting stung by bees**

**Preventing bees from settling in. It is important to know where they settle and to remove those risks.**

- Bees and wasps' nest in a wide variety of locations, such as pipes, holes, behind shutters, under shingles, cracks and crevices within trees and rocks, and hanging from branches.
- Prevent honeybees from building a colony in your house or yard, fill all cracks and crevices in walls, ventilation holes with steel wool and caulk.
- Remove piles of junk, honeybees will nest in an old soda can or an overturned flowerpot.
- When the garbage will have "attractive" properties (such as cooldrink cans, or candy wrappers), garbage bins to be kept closed at all times.
- Do not store garbage outside designated garbage bins at your home, garden, or vehicle and keep it covered.
- In outdoor public areas try to locate the food areas away from where crowds of people are.
- If there are fruit trees nearby, clean up any fallen fruit.
- Keep pet food inside the house.
- Fill holes in the ground and cover the hole in your water valve box.

### **Escape from bee attacks**

- When you come across a swarm of angry bees the most important thing to do is to move / run away as fast as possible.
- Keep escape routes in mind.
- When you do not have a net with you, grab a blanket, a coat, a towel, anything that will give you momentary relief while you look for an avenue of escape.
- Use your shirt to protect your head, neck and face.
- The stings you may get on your chest and abdomen are far less serious than those to the facial area.
- Cover your mouth and nose as you quickly leave the area.
- Do not try to retrieve belongings nearby.
- Do not try to stand still in an attempt to fool the bees.
- Stay calm - Do not try to fight the bees as they have the advantage of numbers and the gift of flight.
- The more you wave your arms, the madder they will get.
- Run indoors as fast as possible.

**Even when some bees may follow you indoors remember that a bee can only sting you once.**

**References:** The information here represent excerpts from the Arrive Alive website. [www.arrivealive.co.za](http://www.arrivealive.co.za)

# What to do when stung by bees

## Removing the Stinger

- First thing to do is remove the stinger. The end of a sting is barbed and will remain stuck in the skin even if the bee is removed.
- Muscles in the stinger allow it to continue pumping venom into the victim.
- The venom can still be injected for up to a minute after the bee detaches from its sting.
- The longer the sting is in the skin, the more will be the effect of the venom being injected.
- Do not pull the stinger out with your fingers or tweezers as it will squeeze out more venom.
- Scrape the stinger out sideways with your fingernail, the edge of a credit card, a dull knife blade, or other straight edged object.

## Medical Response to Bee Stings

- Try not to panic – remain calm.
- How to alleviate the sting: Swelling may be reduced by putting ice on the wound and/or taking an antihistamine.
- Some home remedies include adding baking soda, vinegar, or toothpaste to the area of swelling.

- It is beneficial to drink plenty of water.
- Wash the site with soap and water.
- Get medical help if the sting is near the eyes, nose or throat.
- If you have experienced a severe allergic reaction to an insect sting in the past, you will likely experience a similar or worse reaction if stung again.
- Have someone stay with the victim to be sure that they do not have an allergic reaction.
- If symptoms of an allergic reaction are experienced seek emergency medical assistance immediately.
- Symptoms can begin immediately following the sting or up to 30 minutes later and might last for hours.
- Anaphylaxis, or the inability to breathe, may occur within seconds or minutes of a sting.
- For people who are hypersensitive to stings, wearing a medical alert bracelet will enable first aiders to respond promptly and appropriately to a sting victim who is unconscious.

**If you have been stung many, many times at once, talk to your doctor. You may need to have your health monitored over the next few days or week.**

**References:** The information here represent excerpts from the Arrive Alive website. [www.arrivealive.co.za](http://www.arrivealive.co.za)

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