

africa's Bowhunter

**The role
of parents
in archery as
a sport**

**Arrow spine:
making it work
for you**

**Kill or
a wound?**

**Hadzebe
bowhunt**

**Shooting
better**

October 2016
VOL 17 - ISSUE 10
SOUTH AFRICA
R39.50 (incl VAT)
USA \$6.50
OTHER COUNTRIES
R34.64 (Tax excl)



**Hunting at
Nimeng Safaris**

Bowhunting roan antelope

Baboon hunt with bow and arrow

By Frank Berbuir

Baboon are very difficult animals to hunt, especially in areas where they are often hunted. They nearly always have a guard on duty that never sleeps. Upon the warning bark from the sentinel, all baboons run away immediately. Their eye-sight is unparalleled and misses no movement or out-of-place object. Baboons are African and Arabian Old World monkeys belonging to the genus *Papio*, part of the subfamily Cercopithecinae.

The five species are some of the largest non-hominoid members of the primate order. Only the mandrill and the drill are larger. The chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*), which is common in Southern Africa, can be 120 cm tall and weigh up to 40 kg. Baboons are terrestrial and live in open savannah, woodland and hills across Africa. They are mostly herbivorous, yet they eat insects and occasionally prey on fish if available or hares, birds, vervet monkeys and small antelopes. In South Africa, they have been known to prey on sheep and goats and create a lot of dam-

age to vegetable farmers. For most farmers they are pest animals. Very often they also destroy telephone lines or water pipes and they like to dismantle elevated hunting hides or ground blinds. They are active at irregular times throughout the day and night.

Most baboons live in hierarchical troops. Group sizes vary between five and 250 animals. On one of my trips to Namibia we were sitting close to a waterhole when a troop of baboons of about 50 animals invaded and laid siege to the water source, not letting any other animal get close to it. They can be extremely aggressive animals. Approaching them closely, especially when they are wounded, is a bad idea. Even a leopard would not hunt an adult and healthy baboon due to the risk of getting hurt by their tremendous canine teeth. Their principal predators are Nile crocodiles, lions, spotted and striped hyenas, leopards and cheetahs. Hunting baboon through stealth and stalking is not recommended. They quickly run away when sensing danger and they can be out of sight fast. As they can decide to run away from the slightest noise, laying an ambush is a more viable hunting method. Camouflaging yourself is most successful.



Bowhunting's Leading Source of Equipment Information is FREE



Gear Reviews
Crossbow Tests
Bow Comparisons
Traditional Focus
Tuning Advice
Coaching Tips
Industry News
Business Profiles
New Products
Special Reports

www.ArrowTradeMag.com

slow connection? www.ArrowTradeMagazine.com

We print it for the industry, then give it to bowhunters and archers worldwide!



The **library of links** in each issue gives you instant access to over 200 bow and crossbow reports and 40 tuning and coaching columns



BOSKOS
TAME YOUR GAME

WESVOERE FEEDS

VERKRYGBAAR BY:

OBARO, NTK, TWK OF U NAASTE
VOERHANDELAAR



Baboons number two (top) three and four (below).



For quite some time I was a bit reluctant to write about hunting a baboon because some people do not like it if you shoot monkeys and ask what is it good for. Normally you do not hunt them for meat and some guys also do not consider them as trophy. Anyhow, it is legal to hunt baboons and for me it also makes a nice trophy as a shoulder mount – just the skull or even a full mount, as long as you keep it natural and do not denigrate the animal by mounting it in silly poses or dresses. But that is just my personal opinion.

Quite some time ago in Namibia I was ambushed together with my professional hunter Gustav in a ground blind shaped like a natural termite hill close to a waterhole. The early morning had passed and meanwhile it became nicely warm inside. We were actually looking for a kudu bull, but during the last hours not much happened besides pigeons and guinea fowl flying or walking in to the water source.

It was nearly 10 o'clock and we were thinking of leaving the blind when suddenly to the left side some blesbuck came closer and from the right side out of the bushes two gemsbuck made their way towards us. Finally to our total surprise also a gang of about 50 baboon came from the middle, directly opposite us, to the water. They went straight to the water; some climbed up some bushes as well as nearby acacias for the watchmen to oversee the place. Wow, what an unexpected excitement. The baboons made their position at the waterhole plain to the antelopes – this is our water now, you'd better back off. Blesbuck and gemsbuck looked a bit unhappy about the situation because it meant no sip of water for them. They stopped in their tracks and as if turned into stone both parties watched the *Papio ursinus* and finally turned and left the waterhole.

Gustav and I were still quiet and he whispered to me: "You can shoot the baboons, as many as you want. They come to this waterhole all the way from my neighbour, a vegetable farmer. He hates them because they make a cause of damage on his fields." OK, then let's try, I thought. My bow was standing on the ground with an arrow on the rest. I had to grab it slowly and get up into a shooting position. Luckily inside our termite hill we were mostly covered and as long as you did not cross the shooting window and make noises the monkeys would not realize you were there.

Slowly but surely and almost silently I stood up with the bow in hand. Gustav told me to aim at the male baboon that was kneeling frontal to us at the edge of the waterhole at about 22 metres. Easier said than done because the monkey was drinking and his body size and silhouette was rather small. I pulled my bow to full draw and moved myself to the shooting window of the blind. I aimed at the upper chest area and waited until the baboon would raise the upper part of his body. It felt like an eternity to hold the bow steady. Although it took just some seconds until the moment of truth was there and I released the arrow on its mission. With a cracking noise it hammered and penetrated fully through the animal's chest cavity. The baboon turned two times, made a somersault backwards and then lay motionless on the ground.

Gustav gave me a wink and raised his thumb. What an excitement. I took some deep breaths to calm down. Interestingly enough, none of the surrounding baboons ran away or took flight. They were just looking at their companion and the crazy exer-

cises he did. Gustav pointed to the right side, where a really old and mean-looking primate came to the waterhole and mumbled: "Shoot that one that is coming to the water when he is standing still." Very gently I pulled another arrow from the quiver and placed it on the arrow rest. The troop of baboons had still not realized we were there nor were they concerned about what had happened roughly a minute before.

The old ape meanwhile arrived at the water and was drinking. His upper body was slightly bent over. His arm did not cover the body and the way for the arrow to his chest was free. Within a split second I was at full draw and the pin of the sight aimed on the lung-heart area. Smoothly I pulled the trigger of my release and on a dime the sturdy two-blade fixed broadhead beat deeply into the mammal chest. His body started up with a short bark and he made a 180-degree turn, when we saw that the broadhead and arrow had penetrated through the body and the elbow of the right arm as well. The baboon hobbled about five metres before he fell on the ground and expired. We both were astonished. What an experience. We waited for about another hour until the baboons had left the waterhole and then finally went out of our termite blind.

In total during that amazing trip I harvested four baboons with bow and arrow, as well as two jackals, an impala ram and finally also an awesome kudu bull, which I never thought would be possible. Thanks to all who made my bowhunting adventure possible and successful.

Always good hunting, shoot straight, Waidmannsheil and alles van die beste.

ABH

Equipment:

- Bow: Mathews LX
- Arrow: Laser Pro 300 carbon arrows,
- Broadhead: Silverflame 125 grain
- Optics: Zeiss Victory 10x40 BT Binos and Bushnell Yardage Pro Rangefinder.
- Release: Scott
- Camo: Sniper Africa & Predator Deception

