



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**Ministry for Health & Environment**  
**Joshua Hassan House**  
**Secretary's Lane**  
**Gibraltar**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Get our monkeys back to nature**

A new initiative '*Get our monkeys back to nature*' has been launched by the Department of the Environment with the support of the Royal Gibraltar Police, the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic and the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society.

The initiative aims to focus awareness on the consequences of feeding the monkeys, otherwise known as macaques, and encourages the public to co-operate in a concerted drive to get our monkeys back to living on wild and officially provisioned food. Awareness leaflets are being distributed in all the monkey hotspots and information signs are being placed in the more problematic areas. Increased patrolling by Police also forms part of the new initiative centred on the wider Barbary Macaque Management plan. The plan, which builds on expert advice provided by local and renowned international experts alike, is being finalised by the Department of the Environment and includes a range of measures that will shortly be announced by the Government.

The leaflet provides facts on the monkeys as well as a guide to behaviour signals, aimed at helping people interpret monkey warning signals.

Actions already being implemented are the placing of self-closing doors in bin enclosures in Laguna Estate and the monkey-proofing of bins in the area of the Gibraltar College. The public is asked to ensure that monkeys are not fed and that rubbish is put out at the correct times in closed enclosures.

The Government is fully committed to ensuring that our macaques no longer cause any nuisance issues to the general public. Public participation is nevertheless essential and the public is reminded that feeding the macaques is a criminal offence punishable with a maximum fine of £500 since this activity encourages the macaques to roam outside the Nature Reserve. For further information or reporting of illegal feeding please contact the feedback centre on telephone number: (00350) 200 65964.

Minister for the Environment Dr John Cortes said, "We are all aware of the concern that people have with the longstanding problem of monkeys in built up areas. Many measures are being prepared, but public co-operation and understanding of the situation is crucial. We need the community to ensure 100% compliance with the law so that monkeys get no food in built up areas."