

Information about the Macaques

Dr. Melvin Chen

(on behalf of the [NTU long-tailed macaque *pro tem* committee](#))

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1 NUMBERS TO DIAL

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 67905200 | NTU Campus Security (24-hour hotline) |
| 97837782 | ACRES (24-hour hotline) |
| 1800 – 471 – 7300 | NParks (helpine) |

2 ACTIVITY LOG

We are curating a **university-wide activity log**. Please provide as much detailed information as possible about the human-macaque encounters. Do include photographic and video evidence if you have it available. This information is relied upon by our friends from [JGIS, NParks, & ACRES](#). Please contact Celine at cychee@ntu.edu.sg if you have information about the macaque sightings.

3 GENERAL ADVICE

The expert consensus is in favour of using **negative conditioning** to stop macaques from foraging in urban areas.¹ Part of this negative conditioning involves a **no-feeding policy**. The essence of the **negative conditioning** approach is also captured in the general advice that follows:

¹ Dr. Chen, Assoc. Prof. Sim, and the student volunteers are preparing a draft proposal for an **Introduction to Monkey Guarding** RE programme. Once approved, this programme will be run through Halls 8 and 9 and made available to all student residents.

- i Keep your windows closed and draw the curtains. If there is food in your unit, ensure that it is not visible from the outside of your unit as macaques are highly visual creatures;
- ii Alert your neighbours when a monkey is in the area;
- iii Make your home unattractive to macaques;
- iv Comply with the wildlife laws and refrain from feeding (intentionally or unintentionally) these macaques and other wildlife (fines are from \$5,000 to \$10,000);
- v Under the [REVISED WILDLIFE ACT](#), killing or capturing wildlife is against the law;
- vi Macaques have expressions of a fear grin and a warning yawn and a raised eyebrow to show discomfort;
- vii Keep a distance of 3 metres;
- viii Avoid letting your back face these macaques and walk backward if necessary;
- ix Avoid walking in between females and their juveniles;
- x Keep your body language neutral;
- xi Do not stare at or taunt the macaques;
- xii Avoid flash photography. If necessary, use the zoom function on your phone cameras;
- xiii Keep food in your bag and try not to make it visible to the macaques;
- xiv If you have to carry food (e.g. drinks), hold it close to your chest or above your head. If you know that plastic bags attract the macaques, you can use canvas tote bags;
- xv Avoid eating or drinking while walking past macaques;
- xvi As you walk dogs, keep your dogs leashed and train your dogs to remain calm. You may also carry your dogs past the macaques;
- xvii If you are pushing a pram, close the bonnet and remove the dangling trinkets;

- xviii Macaques have an affectionate cooing noise and clicking which may not be what you expect. There is also an actual yawn. The difference between a warning warn and an actual yawn is that their eyes close and their body language is more sluggish;
- xix Make your presence known: you can whistle and ensure the macaques hear your footfall.

4 USEFUL LINKS & REFERENCE MATERIAL

Zoom recording of webinar on macaques (Access passcode: 2pj+GV.L)

Macaque advisory

Macaque expressions

5 REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|--|---|
| JGIS | Vilma D’Rozario Tanya Pillay-Nair Heng Su Ping |
| ACRES | Joe Kam |
| NParks | Chanelle Lim |
| NTU student volunteers | Guanying (NTUSU President) Benjamin Vartika Keerthanna Shi Zhou |
| NTU experts on campus biodiversity | Prof. David Wardle Dr. Shawn Lum |
| NTU long-tailed macaque <i>pro tem</i> committee | Assoc. Prof. Anil Samtani Assoc. Prof. Sim Wai Chew Celine Lim-Chee Chye Yun Yum Shoen Keng Dr. Melvin Chen |

📅 2020 TIMELINE OF EVENTS (UPDATED ON 7 OCT)

| | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| 15 OCT |● | 1 st storytelling outreach session proposed by JGIS for children at Learning Vision @ NTU. |
| 10 OCT |● | 3 rd webinar proposed by JGIS for all students. |
| 7 OCT |● | Inclusion of NTU Students' Union President in WhatsApp group #1. |
| 1 OCT |● | 2 nd webinar held by JGIS for NTU campus security. |
| 18 SEP |● | Inclusion of Prof. Wardle & Dr. Lum as NTU-based experts. |
| 18 SEP |● | University-wide dissemination of macaque-related information. |
| 17 SEP |● | 2 nd home visit to NTU by Long-tailed Macaque Working Group (LTMWG). |
| 15 SEP |● | 1 st draft of proposal for Intro to Monkey Guarding RE programme. |
| 12 SEP |● | Creation of WhatsApp group #1 (for <i>pro tem</i> & student volunteers). |
| 11 SEP |● | 1 st home visit to NTU by LTMWG. |
| 9 SEP |● | Creation of WhatsApp group #2 (for <i>pro tem</i> , JGIS, ACRES, & NParks). |
| 8 SEP |● | Formation of <i>pro tem</i> committee. |

📅 2020 TIMELINE OF EVENTS (UPDATED ON 7 OCT)

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 7 SEP | • | Dissemination of macaque-related information to all student & faculty residents. |
| 5 SEP | • | 1 st webinar held by JGIS for all student & faculty residents. |
| 31 AUG | • | ACRES sent 2 posters about the dos and don'ts with macaques. |
