



OIA 18-E-0394 DOC-5532600

23 July 2018

Lloyd Jerome: [fyi-request-8344-edfb3481@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8344-edfb3481@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Lloyd

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 17 July 2018. You requested the following:

*I have seen in the press, recently, the sad cases of three dead Kiwi in the Far North. One on Long Beach, Russell, and two in the Trounson Forest. Please, through the OIA, could you pass on the conclusions of the post-mortem investigation on these three birds. I am happy if you provide the findings in full; I am sufficiently educated to understand specialist findings in this field.*

The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are attached:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	5 July 2018	Trounson Kauri Park Kiwi Pathology Report 56028	Released in full
2	17 July 2017	Trounson Kauri Park Kiwi Pathology Report 56067	Released in full.
3	12 June 2018	Long Beach Pathology Report 55957	Released in full.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Reed-Thomas  
Director Operations, Northern North Island

## School of Veterinary Science

## Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.:	Date Sent: 05/07/2018	Accession No.: 56028
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To: Alana McLeod  
Department of Conservation- Dargaville  
150 Colville Road  
Dargaville 0377

Report Sent: 09/07/2018

Copy To:

Email: amcleod@doc.govt.nz

Species: Avian-WL	Breed: Kiwi (brown)
Age: Adult - 23+ years	Sex: Female
Owner:	Type: Post Mortem
ID: RA-1035	Prev. Accn.:
Submitted: 1	At Risk:
Affected: 1	Dead: 1

### History

Found dead 27/06/2018) in open 600m from bush edge within the park on a biodiversity track. Suspect dog attack, sent to Ecogene (02/07/2018) prior to being sent to Wildbase for post mortem examination. The kiwi was still partially frozen on submission.

### Gross Findings

The bird weighed 3.27 kg and was in good body condition, with good skeletal muscle mass and good body fat reserves.

There was extensive feather loss over the left and right thoracic and pelvic areas accompanied by extensive skin contusions and multiple puncture wounds to the skin.

Over the contused skin of the left dorsal thoracic and pelvic region were four puncture wounds, the largest measuring ~3 x 5 mm in diameter. Over the contused skin of the left dorsal thoracic and pelvic region were four puncture wounds, the largest measuring ~3 x 5 mm in diameter.

Large amounts of haemorrhage and clotted blood were present in the underlying soft tissues extending over the proximal regions of both thighs. There were bilateral rib fractures and defects in the intercostal musculature (accompanied by haemorrhage); on the left this had resulted in herniation of a portion of the left oviduct into the subcutaneous space over the left thoracic cage. The liver was diffusely pale and the lungs mottled deep red.

Over the left ovary was a ~ 70 mm in diameter ovarian follicle.

The synsacrum was luxated ventrally from the caudal thoracic spine resulted in extensive maceration of both kidneys.

### Diagnosis

Severe musculoskeletal trauma consistent with a dog attack

### Comments

This was an adult female in good body condition and about to ovulate.

The pattern of damage as well as the puncture wounds are consistent with a dog attack. She has been bitten around the thoracic and pelvic areas and shaken vigorously; this has resulted in a broken spine and severe damage to the thorax with bruising and haemorrhage indicating the bird was alive when attacked.

At least four puncture wounds were present on both sides of the thorax/pelvis. It can be difficult to pair-up multiple puncture wounds to give an intercanine distance, but given the large size of the and the extent of the internal damage, it is possible this kiwi has been bitten at least twice and an intercanine distance of ~40 mm could be postulated.

Date: 09/07/2018	Pathologists: S A Hunter
Students: Nigel Dougherty	

## School of Veterinary Science

## Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.:	Date Sent: 17/07/2018	Accession No.: 56067
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To: Reuben Booth  
Department of Conservation- Dargaville  
150 Colville Road  
Dargaville

Report Sent: 18/07/2018  
Copy To:

Email: rbooth@doc.govt.nz

Species: Avian-WL	Breed: Kiwi (brown)		
Age: Subadult	Sex: Female		
Owner:	Type: Post Mortem		
ID: Leg tag KC-009	Prev. Accn.:		
Submitted: 1	At Risk:	Affected: 1	Dead: 1

**History**

Found dead (11/07/2018) 1.5m from public walking track. Frozen prior to submission.

**Gross Findings**

The bird weighed 2.25 kg and was in good body condition.

There was patchy feather loss and multiple contusions over the ventral and (bi)lateral thoracic regions. There was extensive haemorrhage of the underlying subcutaneous tissues as well as the intercostal musculature. There were multiple fractures of the sternum as well as a mid-diaphyseal fracture of the 1st rib (right).

Both liver lobes were macerated as was the heart; multiple blood clots were present in the cranial coelomic cavity. The lungs were diffusely deep red and the trachea was full of serosanguinous fluid (a small amount of which was also present in the oral cavity).

There was a fracture of the mid-cervical spine with tearing of the associated musculature; there was no associated haemorrhage.

**Diagnosis**

Musculoskeletal trauma consistent with a dog attack

**Comments**

This was a subadult female in good body condition. It appears as though this kiwi has been pinned on her back and attacked around the chest area. The subsequent shaking has resulted in multiple fractures of the sternum and crushing of the internal organs; the associated haemorrhage and blood clots indicate the bird was alive when attacked. She also had a broken neck but this appears to have occurred after death as there was no haemorrhage associated with the neck fracture.

Date: 18/07/2018	Pathologists: S A Hunter
Students: Nigel Dougherty	

## School of Veterinary Science

## Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.:	Date Sent: 12/06/2018	Accession No.: 55957
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To: Cinzia Vestena  
Department of Conservation- Kerikeri  
34 Landing Road  
Kerikeri 0230

Report Sent: 12/06/2018  
Copy To:

Email: cvestena@doc.govt.nz

Species: Avian-WL	Breed: Kiwi (brown)		
Age: Subadult	Sex: Male		
Owner:			Type: Post Mortem
ID: 431			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted: 1	At Risk:	Affected: 1	Dead: 1

**History**

Found dead 09/06/2018 on water mark.

**Gross Findings**

The bird weighed 1.836 kg and was in good body condition. There were extensive areas of subcutaneous haemorrhage and tearing predominantly over the left lateral aspects of the caudal neck, thorax, abdomen and proximal thigh but these changes were also present along the dorsum of the thorax and synsacrum. There was marked tearing and haemorrhage of the musculature of the left proximal thigh and inguinal region. There were multiple fractures of the sternum as well as tearing of the abdominal musculature resulting in exposure of the coelom to the subcutaneous tissues. There was marked tearing of both liver lobes and most of the left kidney. There were multiple rib and pelvic fractures as well as several dislocations of the caudal thoracic spine. No other abnormalities were noted on gross post mortem.

**Diagnosis**

Severe musculoskeletal trauma consistent with a dog attack

**Comments**

This was a subadult male kiwi in good body condition. There was extensive trauma, with severe haemorrhage and tearing of the soft tissues and multiple fractures to the sternum, ribs, pelvis and thoracic spine. No obvious puncture wounds were found in the skin but this is not uncommon in dog attacks as the skin of kiwi is very tough compared to the underlying soft tissues which tear easily with the vigorous shaking that a dog will do with a large bird in its mouth.

Date: 12/06/2018	Pathologists: S A Hunter
Students: Jess McCutchan	