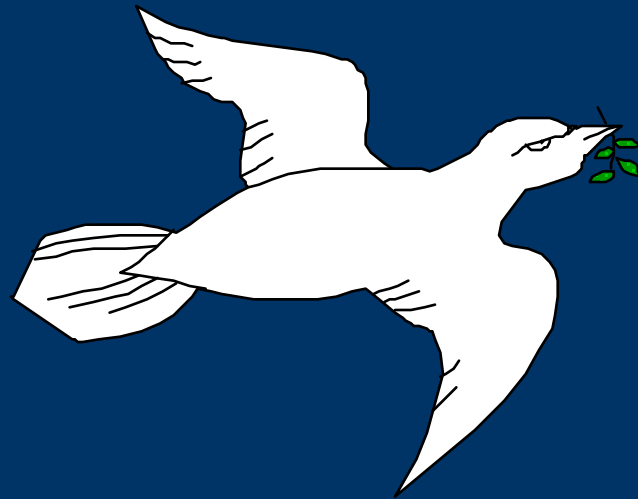


AVIAN NECROPSIES

Or

How to get the most out of your Lab



Maurice Alley

New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre



Te Kūnenga
ki Purehuroa



Massey University

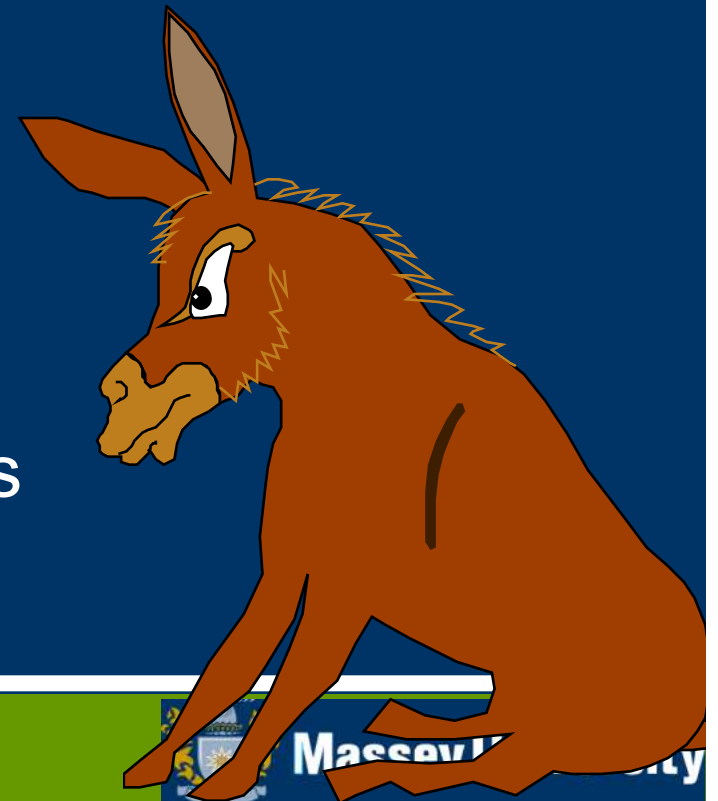
TERMINALLY ILL BIRDS

- Collect Blood
- Make an air dried smear
- Fill EDTA haematocrit tube
- Collect some blood in a plain tube
- Euthanise bird :-
 - i/v barbiturate (by veterinarian)
 - Inhaled anaesthetic, CO₂ or CO
 - Cervical dislocation as last resort



COLLECT A GOOD HISTORY

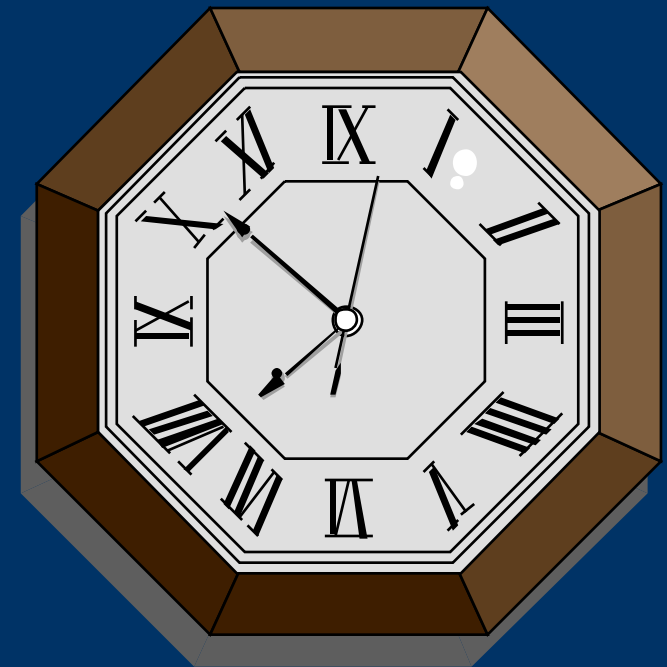
- Species Age ID Sex Body Weight
- No. Affected /No. at Risk/ No. Dead
- Nutrition
- Treatment
- Clinical signs
- Time of death
- Use Wildlife Submission Forms



FRESHLY-DEAD BIRDS

Best results if:-

- Refrigerate until collected by courier
- Send on ice in chilli bin
- Courier to lab ASAP
- Only freeze as a last resort



Plan B : FIXED CARCASS

- Weigh body +/- take fresh samples
- Prepare the body by making the 5 recommended cuts
- Place in a volume of 10% formalin 10 x volume of body
- Transport in leak-proof containers or fix for 2 days and pour off formalin



Last Resort

3 things you can do with a frozen bird

- Gross examination (after thawing)
eg. predation
- Toxicology)
) – if :-
- PCR)
 1. You know what to look for
 2. You have heaps of money



What you can do with a fixed bird

- Almost everything (– except toxicology)



PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING DEAD BIRDS

- Make contact with lab – phone
email
- Fill in a submission form
- Pack specimens correctly
- Send to : Maurice Alley/Brett Gartrell
IVABS
Vet Tower
Massey University
Palmerston North



Health and Safety



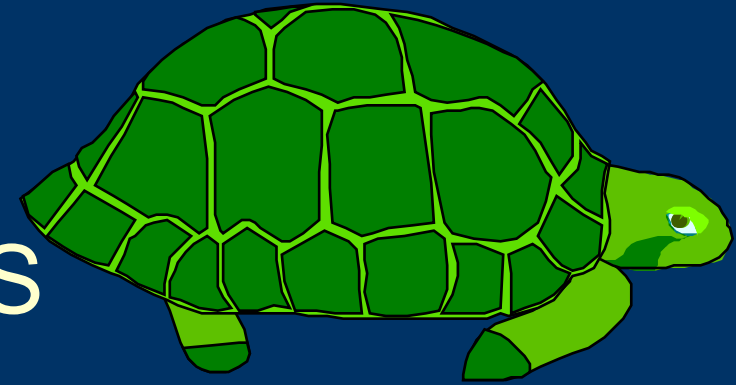
Pack specimens adequately



Ice pack substitutes



PROCEDURE DURING WEEKENDS + HOLIDAYS



- Make phone contact if possible
- Otherwise, if bird fresh + lab can be reached within 48 hrs:- refrigerate + dispatch on Monday
- If greater delay or decomposition has occurred, fix in formalin
- In some cases an on-site necropsy may be appropriate
- Freeze as last resort



Pathology Report

(submitter)

(details of specimen)

History

Gross findings

Histopathology

Microbiology and Parasitology

Diagnosis

Comment



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Get real.....



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