



Caring for kiwi and managing dogs in Northland: understanding viewpoints

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Overview

The Problem:

Dogs are the main threat to the North Island Brown Kiwi in Northland
(Germano et al. 2018)

Objectives:

To identify and examine the range of viewpoints held on the issue of
“dogs preying on kiwis” in Northland

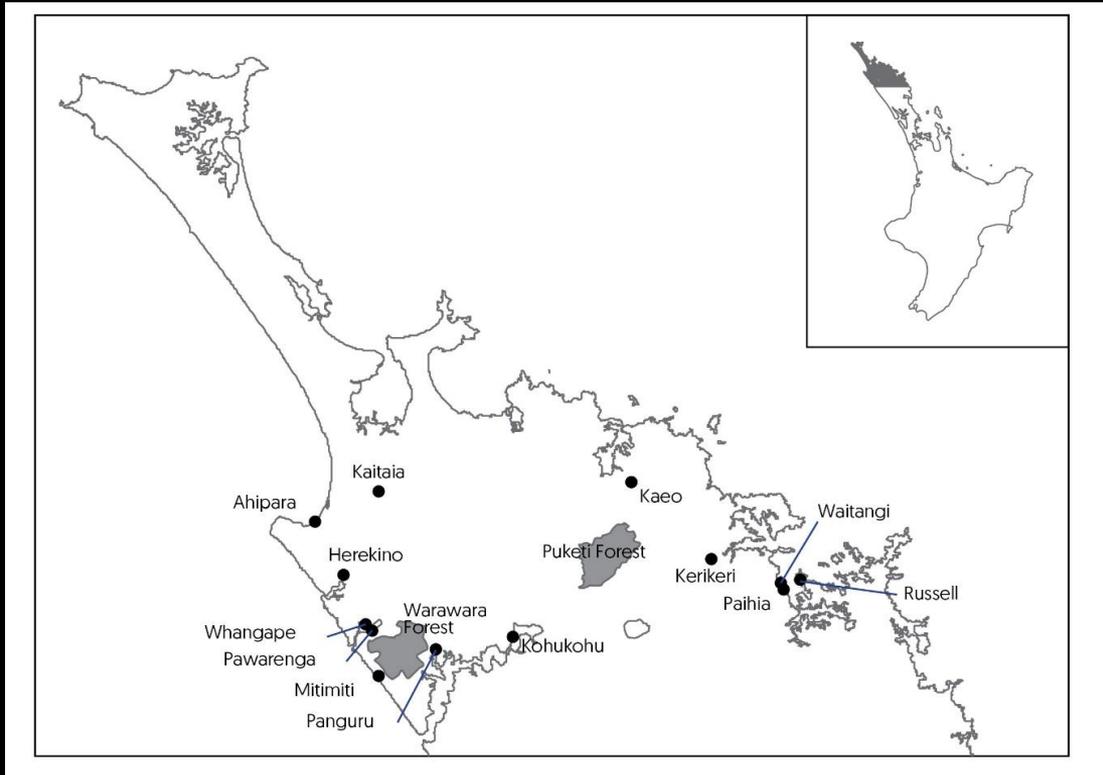
Research method:

Q sort interviews with a range of people with strong views on dogs,
pig hunting, kiwi, pest control, dog policy and conservation

Germano J, Barlow S, Castro I, Colbourne R, Cox M, Gillies C, ... Yong S 2018. Kiwi Recovery Plan 2018–2028 Mahere Whakaora Kiwi 2018–2028. Threatened Species Recovery Plan 64. Wellington: Department of Conservation.



Map of the Far North



2017: Kerikeri/ Kaeo/
Bay of Islands

4 perspectives

2018: Kaitaia,
Warawara forest
surrounds

3 perspectives



Kerikeri Viewpoints

Viewpoints	Characteristics
1. Conservation advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong advocates for conservation, kiwi, and kiwi aversion (KA) training.• Believe the impact of dogs on kiwi is due to irresponsible dog owners who don't think their dog would kill a kiwi.• Kiwis are an iconic species and controlling dogs will provide benefits for other wildlife species too
2. Family centric – rural focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pig hunters and farmers who strongly value dogs for the work they do for them and their family – see themselves as responsible dog owners• Support KA training and conservation• Want to see FNDC more active in controlling unregistered dogs in rural communities
3. Dog centric – peri-urban focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong bond with their dogs and integral to family life• exercising and socialising dogs important to dog's wellbeing; need somewhere to exercise their dogs – away from kiwi• Value dogs over kiwi but dogs and kiwi should be able to co-exist; support KA training
4. Dog control enforcers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High appreciation for kiwi and take a strong stance on dog control enforcement• Support dog owner education to encourage responsible dog owners• Believe economic benefits for Northland if kiwi numbers increase



Warawara Viewpoints

Viewpoints	Characteristics
5. Kiwi advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiwis are taonga and its everyone's responsibility to protect them and other native species• Deep connection to nature• Believe kiwi need people to survive• Benefits for dogs that have ongoing KA training; will stand up to irresponsible dog owners
6. Responsible dog owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong views on responsible dog ownership and control of dogs, feral cats, and stoats to protect kiwi• Exclude dogs from areas where kiwi live and are protected unless they have a job to do• Monitoring and pest control are important tools for protecting kiwi
7. Kiwi protectors for future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Want to protect kiwi for future generations• Value native species more than dogs but dogs still part of their lives and have a job to do• Kiwi don't need people to survive• KA training key to keeping kiwi safe but there is room for improvement – doesn't work for all dogs



Agreement statements sorted by MEAN

Ranking by Mean	#	Kerikeri statements with the highest agreement
1	10	Feral cats and stoats are skilled killers and are also a threat to kiwis
2	45	Hunting dogs going into known kiwi areas should have ongoing kiwi aversion training
3	40	Responsible dog owners keep their dog inside, tie it up, or keep it in an enclosed area at night
4	13	Kiwi have a right to live where they have always lived
Ranking by Mean	#	Warawara statements with the highest agreement
1	5	Kiwi are a living treasure. It is everyone's responsibility to protect these taonga
2	13	Kiwi have a right to live where they have always lived
3	37	The kiwi is a taonga (treasure) to Maori and holds significant cultural, spiritual and historic associations. Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu - Although it is small, it is a treasure
4	45	Hunting dogs going into known kiwi areas should have ongoing kiwi aversion training



Statement 13: Kiwi have a right to live where they have always lived

Viewpoint	Agree	Quote
1. Conservation advocates	5	<i>Kiwi were here before humans...we have endangered kiwi's lives</i>
2. Family centric – dogs with jobs	-1*	<i>Kiwi had to adapt</i>
3. Dog centric – domestic dogs	1	<i>Dogs have more of a right than kiwi – I want kiwi to survive but in protected areas... They are shy and nocturnal and should be left alone.</i>
4. Dog control enforcer	3	<i>I have a high regard for kiwi and they deserve to live in relevant safety and not be killed.</i>
5. Kiwi advocates	3	<i>Protect the habitat as well...it doesn't matter if you are talking kiwi or whatever; Kiwi don't have choices so we need a pest free breeding ground so they can be reintroduced</i>
6. Responsible dog owner	3	<i>I believe that kiwi have a right</i>
7. Kiwi protectors	5	<i>We need to keep kiwi in natural habitats; Kiwi have a right where predators are causing decimation</i>

*Disagree with this statement



Disagreement statements sorted by MEAN

Ranking by Mean	#	Kerikeri statements most disagreed with
1	11	My dog has a right to run free without a lead anywhere
2	2	I am not very concerned about kiwi because the DOC is protecting kiwi in sanctuaries and the ones in the wild have to fend for themselves
3	27	My dog wouldn't kill a kiwi
4	51	Kiwi aversion training for dogs is a waste of time and doesn't work

Ranking by Mean	#	Warawara statements most disagreed with
1	22	Wandering dogs are part of our community - I value them*
2	27	My dog wouldn't kill a kiwi
3	4	I care more about my dog(s) than native species
4	2	I am not very concerned about kiwi because the DOC is protecting kiwi in sanctuaries and the ones in the wild have to fend for themselves



Should kiwi live in sanctuaries or in the wild?

Statement 2: I am **not** very concerned about kiwi because the DOC is protecting kiwi in sanctuaries and the ones in the wild have to fend for themselves

Viewpoint	Disagree	Quote
1. Conservation advocates	-5	<i>[kiwi] need gene diversity so kiwi need to be in private and public land</i>
2. Family centric – dogs with jobs	-3	<i>It is important to protect kiwi</i>
3. Dog centric – domestic dogs	-2	No relevant quote
4. Dog control enforcer	-2	<i>Kiwi can't escape [from dogs] ... they're a walking hamburger and smell good!</i>
5. Kiwi advocates	-4	<i>I am concerned – wandering dogs are bad; Wouldn't have kiwi in decline if that was a fact...can't sit around and wait. DOC support is not enough</i>
6. Responsible dog owner	-3	<i>It's common sense... don't leave it to someone else</i>
7. Kiwi protectors	-4	<i>I disagree... DOC is backing away from its core business... [there are] just as many [kiwi] in small forests as in big ones but they are not being protected</i>



Insights

- The issue of dogs preying on kiwi is complex
- Dog owners vary widely in their awareness of kiwi, commitment to protecting kiwi and their ability to keep kiwi safe
- Strong cultural values associated with kiwi, dogs and pig hunting in the Far North
- Concern about a widening gap between conservationists and dog owners
- Kiwi aversion training viewed positively but needs refining and not suitable for all breeds of dogs
- Dog training should be part of a responsible dog ownership programme



Western and eastern Northland

- Community engagement at the local scale is important
- Different issues identified for west and east communities in the Far North
 - Warawara - wandering dogs an issue;
 - dog management regulations less acceptable
 - People have good intentions [to tie up their dog] but don't end up doing it...some shouldn't have animals as they don't respect other people's land or the dog... they are not aware of the consequences. [WW18]*
 - Kerikeri - visitors with dogs and dog control regulations are highlighted
 - In Whangarei, dogs are on the lead... there are signs everywhere – even for visitors. Education and peer pressure are needed for changing social perceptions. [KK23]*

Dog management and enforcement

- Urban and rural differences in enforcement
 - Rural areas - less capacity for dog controllers to respond
 - Urban areas – perception that FNDC is more likely to enforce dog management regulations



Further thoughts

- Dog management issues are also applicable to:
 - other wildlife,
 - people and livestock
 - to other regions in NZ
- Need a **National dog ownership programme**
 - How compliant are dog owners?
 - How do councils enforce dog management legislation?
 - Dog trainers/dog control officers – wealth of knowledge – how do we utilise this knowledge and ensure they are supported?
 - Need to ensure safe places for dogs to exercise and socialise
 - Education through schools an important avenue for engaging dog owners
- Research is needed to better understand dog owners' views on dog management and leashing to help improve compliance



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