

Landowners and kiwi

How landowners and residents can help kiwi at their place

Kiwi are a territorial long-lived species, so once they are settled they are likely to stick around for a while. Responsible dog ownership is essential to allow kiwi populations to thrive. Here are some additional things we can do to help protect kiwi:



Holes can become a kiwi trap

- Kiwi are curious creatures who like to explore dark places
- Sometimes their exploration can lead to them climbing or falling into holes which they can't escape from
- If you have any holes at your place (e.g. offal pits) please make sure kiwi have a way to get out

Death by drowning

- Kiwi sometimes get stuck in water and may drown
- If you have standing water (troughs, fish ponds, or pools including paddling pools) try to make sure kiwi can't get in. If they can get in, then make sure they can also get out (bricks, stones or a ramp can help)
- This is especially important during droughts, when kiwi may be seeking hydration from unexpected places



Top tips for trapping

- Trapping is an excellent way to help protect the environment
- Ensuring you don't catch any non-targets such as kiwi is an important part of being a responsible trapper
- Ground-set traps like DOC200s need to be in an approved wooden trap box
- Cat or possum traps like SA2s and Timms need to be at least 70cm above the ground to protect kiwi, and at least 130cm above the ground if there are weka about. Don't use ground-set leghold traps if there are kiwi or weka around.

Be vigilant with vegetation

- Kiwi use almost all vegetation types, including rank grass, weeds like pampas, and regenerating scrub
- If you are controlling/clearing vegetation be mindful that kiwi could be present. Make plenty of noise, leave areas for the kiwi to escape to, and keep dogs away in case kiwi flush
- Where possible, avoid controlling vegetation during the peak kiwi egg incubation season (August - January)



There are many ways to protect kiwi on your land

What about my dog?

With responsible dog ownership both kiwi and dogs can thrive

Dogs can be a threat to kiwi, but when they are well controlled, kiwi can thrive. If you are a dog owner or have visitors with a dog, there are a few key steps you can take to protect kiwi and other wildlife:



Dogs under control

- Keep your dog under control and not roaming at all times. This is a requirement of all dog owners under the Dog Control Act 1996
- Keeping dogs under control is not only a great way to keep wildlife (including kiwi) safe, it also helps to keep your dog safe
- Teaching your dog great recall helps them remain under control

Safe day and night

- Kiwi are nocturnal, so keeping dogs contained at night is key
- Contained means inside the house, or in a secure kiwi-proof run where a kiwi can't reach your dog
- Dogs heading out for night time ablutions is a risky time for kiwi, but escorting your dog while they are on lead really helps
- Kiwi can be tucked into vegetation or above the ground during the day, so are still at risk from dogs during daylight hours

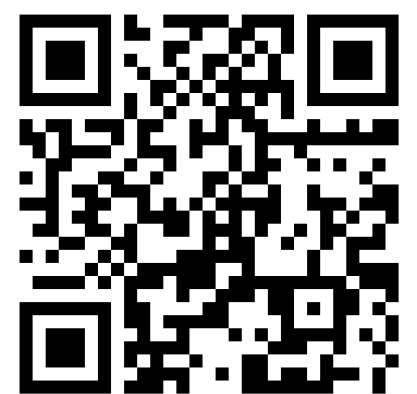


Walked on a lead

- Walking your dog on a lead anywhere that kiwi may be is the best way to protect kiwi while exercising your dog
- A short lead is best. If this is too restrictive for your dog a long lead is better than no lead
- Look for kiwi-safe places to walk, like fenced dog parks or beaches below high tide (but please follow local bylaws and be aware of shorebirds and penguins)

Kiwi Avoidance Training

- Kiwi Avoidance Training for dogs is one tool that can help reduce the threat hunting and farming dogs pose to kiwi in the wild
- Some pet dog owners with kiwi on their land also like to add Kiwi Avoidance Training in addition to the methods noted above
- Go to kiwiavoidancetraining.nz for more information



The best way to protect kiwi is to keep dogs under control

Do kiwi live around here?

How to recognise kiwi signs so you know when kiwi are about

Kiwi live in many places, but are nocturnal and hard to see. Keep an eye and ear out for these signs to show that kiwi are nearby:



Dark skies and kiwi cries

- Kiwi call throughout the year, but more over winter
- The male call is shrill and has 8-25 repetitions
- The female call is guttural and has 10-20 repetitions
- Some birds sound similar to kiwi, like weka and ruru (morepork)
- Scan the QR code to hear some kiwi calls

Furry feathers?

- Kiwi feathers have a downy appearance with no barbs holding each segment together. They are hair-like on the ends
- Feathers are often seen in summer caught in hook grass or other vegetation along tracks



Puddle prints

- Look out for footprints in the mud or sand with only three front toes (the fourth toe doesn't usually leave a print)
- The fourth toe is easily seen in footprints left by other birds such as pūkeko, weka, chickens, and pheasants

Feeding forensics

- Kiwi probe the ground for food with their long beak, leaving conical holes the shape of an old-fashioned ice cream cone
- If there are cobwebs in a possible probe hole, it could be a tunnel web spider den



Smell some scat

- Kiwi scat (poo) is quite difficult to tell apart from other birds and even the experts get fooled
- Look for a brown and white scat on the ground, with the brown part looking quite thick
- Kiwi scat has a distinctive pungent, sharp, earthy and musty smell - so if you are game give it the sniff test!

Looking and listening for kiwi signs is a great way to get involved



I've seen a kiwi, what shall I do?

Please follow these steps if you see a kiwi anywhere

North Island brown kiwi are in a state of recovery. As their populations grow it will become more likely to see them. If you see a kiwi there are ways you can help:



If you see a kiwi, report it using this QR code.

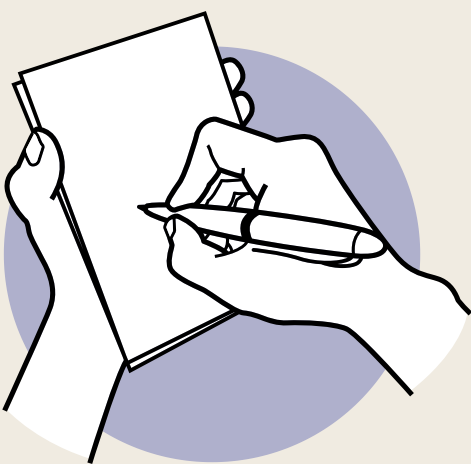
- When sharing your data, please include as much information as you can and include any supporting photos.
- Once you submit your observation, Save the Kiwi will review it then upload it to the map where you'll be able to see it too

Sick or injured kiwi?

- Seeing a kiwi out during the day doesn't necessarily mean it is sick or injured. It could just be feeding, especially during summer when the nights are short
- 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) is the 24-hour emergency hotline for the Department of Conservation (DOC), which can be used for wildlife emergencies
- Contact Save the Kiwi or your local kiwi project for further advice on next steps



Dead kiwi



- Under the Wildlife Act 1953 protected wildlife (including kiwi) are the responsibility of DOC
- If you find a dead kiwi it needs to be reported to DOC, even if it looks like it's been dead for a while
- Contact your local DOC office and they will guide you through the steps
- Try not to disturb the kiwi or the area until you have spoken to DOC, as there could be key information about how the kiwi died. Taking photos and notes is helpful
- Any dead bird could carry disease, so it's important to practice good hygiene to keep yourself safe

Your reports help us to learn more about kiwi