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Clinical Communication

Fatal levamisole toxicosis of captive kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*)

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Abstract

CASE HISTORY: Nine of 24 captive kiwi treated with oral levamisole at a dose between 25–43 mg/kg showed signs of respiratory distress. Six died within 4 h of treatment and the remaining three made a full recovery within 24 h.

CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS: Within 3–4 h of treatment, the affected birds had an elevated respiratory rate, mucoid nasal discharge and rapidly became

comatose. Necropsy revealed severe inflammation in the oral cavity and early acute necrotic hepatitis. The liver was enlarged and the lungs showed hyperinflation and

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CLINICAL RELEVANCE: Kiwi were acutely sensitive to levamisole toxicity at doses that are well within the safe range for domestic poultry. Levamisole should not be used as an anthelmintic in kiwi.

KEY WORDS: Apterygiformes kiwi pulmonary oedema anthelmintic toxicity levamisole

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