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Clinical Communication

Fatal levamisole toxicosis of captive kiwi (Apteryx mantelli)

BD Gartrell, MR Alley & AH Mitchell

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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

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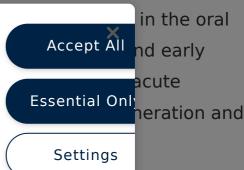
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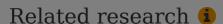


CLINICAL RELEVANCE: Kiwi were acutely sensitive to levamisole toxicity at doses that are well within the safe range for domestic poultry. Levamisole should not be used as an anthelmintic in kiwi.

Q KEY WORDS: Apterygiformes kiwi pulmonary oedema anthelmintic toxicity levamisole

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Department of Conservation.





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