



Information Sheet
September 2009

Announcing the National Wildlife Health Database

WHAT'S IT FOR?

The database is being used to store and share wildlife disease testing results, to make disease testing easier, cheaper and better for everyone.

HOW WILL IT HELP?

We want everyone to share information so we can reduce the amount of disease testing being carried out wherever possible.

For translocations, the database will provide all the information needed to undertake a risk assessment. This will make it easier to make decisions—and in many cases will also lead to less disease testing being needed for your next translocation!

The database gets the data out of people's heads or filing cabinets and into an electronic form that can easily be shared.

We will also monitor the data so we can detect new diseases and take action to protect our wildlife if required.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY DATA?

Data (test results) are entered onto a DOC database that is administered at Auckland Zoo's New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine (NZCCM). The test results are linked to the project that collected them.

We will create summaries for different species"—e.g. disease results from all the hihi in the database. We will also summarise the results from locations, e.g. Tiritiri Matangi. These will be posted on the DOC website for easy access and use.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

To become a contributor, simply send us copies of disease testing results from your files. Also, tell us a little about the project, e.g. what species were tested and where they were from.

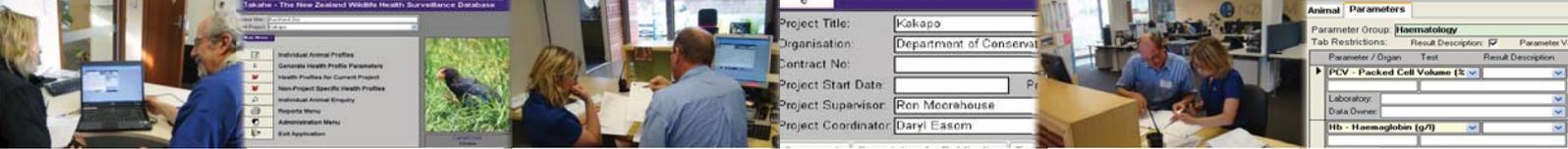
Attached is a form you can use to describe your project (also available in pdf form on the DOC website). We will link this information to your testing results so we know the 'big picture' background to each result. If it looks like something is missing, we may come back and ask you some questions to make sure the database is accurate and contains the correct background information.

This information is
part of the Department
of Conservation's
National Wildlife
Health Database Project

Produced by
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In the future, plan to send us the project details and test results as soon as you receive them. This will keep the database up-to-date and prevent the results getting lost. You could even ask the lab to send us a copy via email!

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

Tell everyone about this database! The more people who use it, the bigger the collection of data, and the more value we will all get out of being a part of it.

WHO CAN USE THE DATA?

We protect your data through a confidentiality agreement. Anyone who wants access to the data has to be a registered user and sign the confidentiality agreement.

Because this project is all about sharing, you won't be consulted if your data are being used for disease management, e.g. translocations. You will be consulted, however, if someone wants to use your data as part of their research project or in a publication. You can then discuss with the author how the collaboration might proceed (co-authorship, acknowledgements, etc.). You have the right to decline the use of your data.

This is all clearly set out in the attached confidentiality agreement, (also available on the DOC website).

HOW DO I ACCESS THE DATA?

Results summaries and other useful information will be posted on the DOC website, or you can request a specific search by contacting Kate McInnes, Project Supervisor.
kmcinnes@doc.govt.nz or 04 495 8604.

You must be a registered user to receive this information.

WEBSITE

Get more information, view result summaries and download forms at:
www.doc.govt.nz/wildlifehealth

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