

## *Quarantine Procedures*

### *Department of Conservation Kapiti Wellington Area Office*

*Help keep the islands free of predators, weeds and diseases*

Congratulations - You are fortunate to do what very few people get to do - spend some time on a predator free island.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) administers these islands for the benefit of all New Zealanders to provide a refuge for some of New Zealand's most threatened species. One of the greatest threats to the species living on these islands is the introduction of plants, animals or diseases that do not naturally occur on the island. The most common way that these threats can arrive is via human visitors, in their gear, bags, and clothing. Rats, mice, rainbow skinks, insects (e.g. Argentine ants or white-tailed spiders), and diseases that affect birds or reptiles have been shown to be able to be readily transported on or in gear and equipment moved to islands with people.

To try and prevent these threats reaching the islands DOC requires all equipment, supplies and personal gear to go through a quarantine process before leaving the mainland. The quarantine process can occur at the quarantine facilities in Waikanae, Plimmerton, or Wellington. If this is not possible then quarantine can happen on the island after arrival, although this is the least preferred option. You need to discuss with the quarantine officer beforehand how long this process will take and any special requirements you may have. **HAVING CLEAN AND WELL ORDERED GEAR WILL SPEED UP THE PROCESS SIGNIFICANTLY.** If any gear is thought by the quarantine officer to be of an unacceptable standard it will not be allowed onto the island.

The following is what is likely to be checked during this process.

- **Packs.**  
It has been shown that packs are an extremely good way of transporting weed seeds. They often contain numerous flaps, pockets, straps and cavities that are difficult to thoroughly clean. Please take extra care to check pockets and Velcro. We have plastic boxes and bins that may be able to be used for transporting equipment. This will give you a further opportunity to check that your gear is clean and is not harbouring any nasties.
- **Gaiters**

Gaiters and other leg/boot protection devices are often dirty and have seeds embedded in the fabric or Velcro fastenings. Gaiters are permitted on the islands but require special attention in cleaning.

- **Footwear.**  
Fungal diseases that affect frogs and lizards have been shown to be able to be transported on dirty footwear. Please clean all footwear going to the island - inside and out - as weed seeds and dirt are most commonly found attached to laces and in the base of the tongue where it joins the body of the shoe/boot or under the removable inner-sole. These areas will be checked by the quarantine officer.
- **Socks.**  
Like shoes/boots weed seeds are commonly found embedded in socks. Your socks should be clean and checked inside and out by doing both a visual and physical check. They will be checked by the quarantine officer to ensure they are weed free.
- **Rain coats/Jackets.**  
Weed seeds and insects can be found in jacket pockets, flaps, seams and Velcro fastenings. Thoroughly check that your pockets are clean and empty. These items will be checked by the quarantine officer to ensure they are weed and insect free.
- **Equipment.**  
All additional equipment such as scientific gear, camera bags, tents, field equipment, tool boxes, etc. must be thoroughly cleaned and if possible treated with a sterilising solution such as 'vircon', 'trigene' or bleach solution. Any equipment found to be dirty will not be allowed on the island. Tents will need to be thoroughly checked and cleaned. The quarantine process required for large, bulky items will need to be discussed with the quarantine officer prior to arrival at the quarantine store.
- **Food Supplies.**  
Food supplies will need to be repacked into the containers supplied or packaged into clean chilly bins, fish bins or new cardboard boxes with all the openings tape sealed. Each item, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables, should be checked for insects. The quarantine officer will oversee this operation.

Once items are packed into the containers they will be sealed and will not be available until on the island. On the islands any gear not thoroughly checked

## *Quarantine Procedures*

### *Department of Conservation Kapiti Wellington Area Office*

*Help keep the islands free of predators, weeds and diseases*

prior to travel must be opened in a sealed quarantine room under supervision of the island staff

It is a good idea to identify what is in each container to enable easy unpacking on the island.

When leaving the island, check that there are no threatened stowaways among your gear. Lizards and weta can easily hitch a ride and will not survive on the mainland.

If the worst does happen, and something gets through the system, please destroy it or collect it and report it to the Department urgently, so we can minimise the damage and learn from the experience.

Finally, have a great time, and enjoy this unique experience.

For the full Kapiti Wellington Island Biosecurity Plan see DOCDM-923646.

**Quarantine Self Audit Check Sheet**

One quarantine form to be completed by every person traveling to islands. Please bring this form with you.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date inspected: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prior** to arrival for quarantine check please ensure all clothing and equipment has been recently washed, dried, and cleaned of any seeds, organic material and insects. Footwear must have been scrubbed clean in a weak bleach solution. Any unclean items will not be permitted onto the island. Bags and rodent proof containers will not be opened until they are in a quarantine room on the island where a final check will be carried out.

	Tick if in compliance	Inspected by quarantine officer	Comments
Boots			
Other footwear			
Socks			
Clothing			
Waterproof leggings			
Parka			
Woollen or fleece jacket			
Field equipment (boxed/bagged)			
Field equipment disinfected			
Food stores (boxed/bagged)			
Other			
<b>SIGNED:</b>		<b>SIGNED:</b>	
Quarantine Officer		Island personnel	