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STOWAWAYS ARE NOT PERMITTED ENTRY!

On Friday 30th July 2021, Biosecurity Services was alerted by TRANSAM employees following a sighting of a stowaway cat in a sea container during devanning at Avatiu Ports. The staff on the ports immediately stopped the devanning of that particular container, closed the container and contacted Biosecurity.

Biosecurity sought the assistance of Dr Ellen McBryde and formulated a plan for the capture and removal of the stowaway. As it was unclear how and where the stowaway managed to get itself trapped in the container and survived the trip, there was no assurance that the cat posed no risks to human health.

“Operation stowaway” was implemented by Deputy Director for Biosecurity Services Pavai Taramai, Te Are Manu Vet Dr Ellen and Daniel Gribble from Transam Ltd.

The team set the trap with cat food inside the container and left.

The next morning, Saturday 31st, the team was contacted that the cat had been captured.

The cat was then transported to Te Are Manu Veterinary Clinic and euthanized.



Above: The stowaway waiting to be transported to Te Are Manu



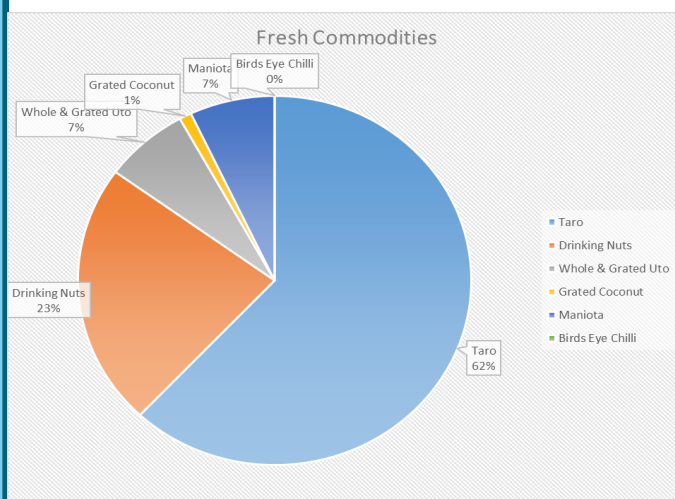
Above: The stowaway is euthanized

Meitaki maata to the team for undertaking this task.

OVER 3 AND A HALF TONES IN 3 WEEKS

We are pleased to report the export of food items taken out of the country by private passengers for the month of August 2021.

Commodity	Weight (k.gs)
Taro	1,918.69
Drinking Nuts	730.85
Whole & Grated Uto	213.35
Grated Coconut	20.90
Maniota	217.11



The table and graph above shows the amount of frozen and fresh food items taken out of the country by air passengers for the month of August 2021.

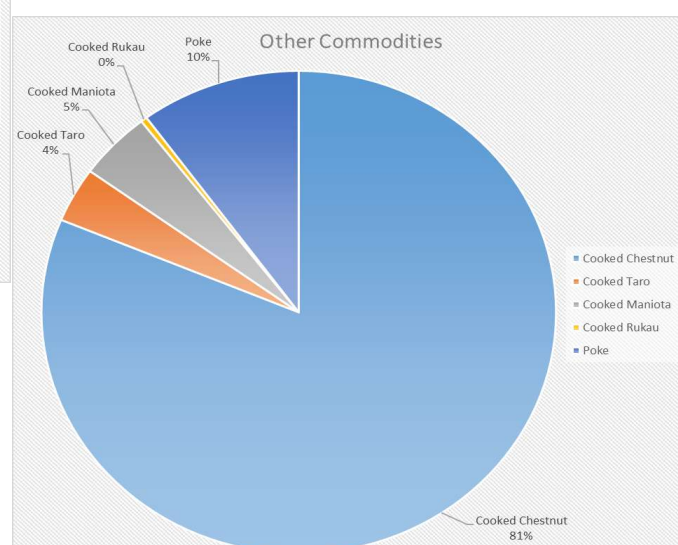
Taro made up nearly 2 tons of food items taken out of the country followed by drinking nuts, Cassava, Uto and Mitiore.

Other food commodities:

The table and graph below shows the plant products taken out of the country by passengers as cooked food consignments.

Chestnuts was the highest “cooked food exported” at 414kg, followed by poke and maniota uki.

Commodity	Weight (k.gs)
Cooked Chestnut	414.35
Cooked Taro	18.8
Cooked Maniota	23.4
Cooked Rukau	2
Poke Meika	51.4



For more information, visit the Ministry of Agriculture office in Arorangi.

Arachnophobia!

On the 2nd of this month, Biosecurity Services inspected the vehicles that had recently arrived from overseas on the last container ship at Avatiu Ports.

Live spiders were seen to have built their nest outside an Excavator.

These spiders were captured, sealed, and brought back to the Ministry for identification.

We are pleased to report that these spiders were identified as harmless spiders who decided to accompany the machinery to Rarotonga.

Overall, 11 x spiders were found and destroyed.



Above: Biosecurity officers capturing the spiders in vials.



Above: Senior Biosecurity Officer Piriariki Maa, and Biosecurity Officer Tamarua Teroi inspecting the excavator.



Above: Spiders spotted nesting outside of the excavator.



Below: Spiders were captured and sealed within vials that were sprayed with permethrin. Overall, 11 x spiders were found.