

Hunt's on for roaming dogs

A TE KUITI man's doves, chooks and bantams were attacked by dogs last week with most slaughtered.

Feathers and carcasses were strewn around the backyard of the Craig Tce property after the Thursday morning attack.

The owner of the birds, 66-year-old David Fraser is naturally distraught.

He's kept birds all his life and at one time raced pigeons, until they were killed by cats and he was forced to abandon his hobby.

He bought six Tumbler pigeons in November and had since bred

another four.

Seven of them were killed in last week's attack, along with seven of his eight chooks including three laying hens, a rooster and four Pekin bantams.

One of the hens was sitting on a clutch of eggs ready to hatch.

The birds were housed in large wire-mesh chicken runs, hen coops and pigeon lofts.

Mr Fraser says he regrets shutting the doves up that night, because they may have escaped the horror if they'd been free to fly away.

"I'm just gutted I didn't hear any-

thing and nor did my neighbours," he says.

"I can't understand it - there are feathers everywhere and I should have heard the attack."

The dogs tore away the hen houses' mesh netting and broke the slats on a wooden door to get into the pigeon loft caging the doves.

Naturally Mr Fraser wants the dogs caught and destroyed.

OTHER ATTACKS

Waitomo District Animal Control contractor Rod McLeod says many chooks have been killed by roaming dogs in the past 10 days with most attacks between 1.30-2.30am.

He is running regular night patrols to catch the culprits.

"Chooks have been killed recently in Taruna Pl and at two Tawa St properties," says Mr McLeod.

"Two dogs were seen last week chasing cats in Taruna Pl and sighted again in Williams St the following night.

"David lost more than a dozen birds and several chooks were also killed on a Hill St property early on Thursday morning.

"A large tan dog, and a black and white dog were seen on that property, but it was too dark to get any more details.

"I picked up a dead tan dog that had been run over by a truck on Te Kumi Rd the same morning

which may, or may not have been part of those attacks."

He says the owners of any dog caught roaming the streets will receive an instant \$200 fine for failing to keep their animal under control.

And he asks anyone spotting roaming dogs to phone the council's animal control staff on 07 878 8476.

"We've had a lot of cats killed by roaming dogs in Te Kuiti, but they're into chooks at the moment," he says.

"We've also fined a lot of people this year and it looks like we're going to be fining some more.

"If you've got a dog it's your responsibility to keep it at home."

He says the dogs responsible are determined attackers, breaking into cages and pulling away netting to get at the chooks.

"They're not eating them, so they're not hungry.

"They'll be strong dogs in good nick and just killing the birds for sport and because they've got a taste for it.

"There are no wild dogs in New Zealand.

"They belong to someone in town and they've been let loose at night.

"We just need to find out who they belong to.

"And look out when we do!"



GUTTED: Te Kuiti man David Fraser cleans up the carnage in his backyard after dogs broke into three hen houses and killed most of his doves, chooks and bantams last week.

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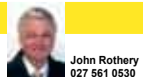
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OPEN HOMES CANCELLED



796 Kawhia Road, Otorohanga

Please Note, all future OPEN HOMES on this property 14th & 21st of February are now cancelled. This property is now in a "multi offer" situation and all offers must be on an "approved form" and presented to the offices of Ray White, Otorohanga or Jo Watson Lawyers, Otorohanga by 4pm on Friday February 7th 2014. Approved forms available from Ray White, Otorohanga.



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