

Kaua'i Mongoose Monitor



July 2012

The report came into to KISC from Hawai'i Department of Agriculture; a mongoose had been spotted at Young Brothers by dock workers and they were attempting to capture it. In the end it was finally captured with cooperation and communication between KISC, HDOA, Young Brothers, and a local fisherman.

One thing that is proving to be a reoccurring theme as a Kaua'i mongoose plan develops is that partnerships are becoming stronger and the concerns surrounding mongoose predation issues for conservation efforts are growing.

Gaping needs, such as legal mongoose toxicants and inter-island biosecurity, are also being revealed and a multi-agency effort is being made to address them.

**Building Partnerships
through common objectives**

Kaua'i Mongoose Communication Network

Interest in what is happening as far as mongoose detection, reports, response, and general status is running high across the state. This newsletter is designed to aid in bettering communication between those who are interested in this developing response project.

This and future newsletters will be posted on the KISC website at www.kauaiisc.org and will mostly focus on ongoing work, captures, reports, and other interesting developments. If you have a suggestion for topics to be included in this newsletter, please contact Keren Gundersen at kgunder@hawaii.edu.

Many changes are in the works as a result of the recent mongoose captures on Kaua'i. A state-wide Mongoose Management Plan is being developed, priority funding is being sought for developing toxicants, discussion is underway for detection dog teams, and the biggest question of all will be where the funding is coming from.

All of these developments will be shared in this and upcoming monthly newsletters.

Mahalo to all of the partners that have expressed interest and participation in this project. I look forward to working with you all.

Keren Gundersen
KISC Project Manager

Two mongooses have been captured on Kaua'i; the first, a mature male on May 23, 2012, and a second, a juvenile female on June 29, 2012. Credible reports continue to be called into the KISC office, some of them multiple animal sightings.

Both specimens have been sent to Will Pitt, USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services, Research Center where further tests will be conducted.



Juvenile mongoose captured at Kaua'i Young Brothers on 6/29/2012

Increasing Capacity

DLNR-DOFAW has agreed to prioritize funding for additional trapping technicians on Kaua'i. These techs, supervised by Kaua'i Wildlife Manager, Thomas Kaiakapu, will work closely with the KISC team as they prioritize trapping efforts in known "hot spots", respond to new reports, and interview community members when new reports come in.

These new techs will be outfitted with a GPS unit and a rugged laptop to ensure data integrity and continuation of spatial data collection.

Both techs will be starting on Monday, July 30, 2012 and undergo field training provided by KISC staff and crew.

Sightings for June & July 2012

- June 1: Koke'e by Honopu Trail Head (Credible)
- June 2: Puhi
- June 2: Kaua'i Lagoons. Two spotted in a sand trap (Credible)
- June 3: Koloa at Kuku'iula (Questionable)
- June 5: Kaua'i Lagoons. Two spotted near a rest room (Credible)
- June 6: Kalihiwai (Questionable)
- June 14: Lihu'e by Stadium (Questionable)
- June 14: Puhi (Credible)
- June 14: Kalaheo (Credible)
- June 15: Moloaa (Credible)
- June 25: Wailua Homesteads (Questionable)
- June 29: Nawiliwili. Juvenile captured (Credible)
- July 3: Waimea (Credible)
- July 8: Lihu'e (Questionable)
- July 10: Anahola (Credible)
- July 12: Omao (Questionable)
- July 13: Waimea (Credible)
- July 16: Polihale (Credible)
- July 18: Wailua Homesteads (Questionable)
- July 19: Lihu'e (Questionable)

The Ultimate Tool: Dog Detection

While dogs have proven to be an effective tool for Brown Tree Snakes, pigs, and contraban fruit, little do people realize that mongoose-hunting dogs exist in Hawai'i and are waiting for their turn to prove their mettal on Kaua'i.

Zero, a smooth-haired fox terrier, will be checking out the Marriott's Kaua'i Lagoons in early August in his quest to "ferret" out any mongoose that remain elusive on the grounds. More details will be reported on this event.

Young Brothers Pro-active

When Nathan Kapule, YB Safety and Environmental Manager, heard there was a mongoose at the Nawiliwili Harbor, he took action. Not only did he establish communications with DLNR and KISC, but he issued a state-side notice to YB harbor employees to be on the look-out for little four-legged hitchhikers. Kapule then set traps at their Oahu harbor facility and immediately caught three mongooses. Shoring up inter-island biosecurity is his highest priority.