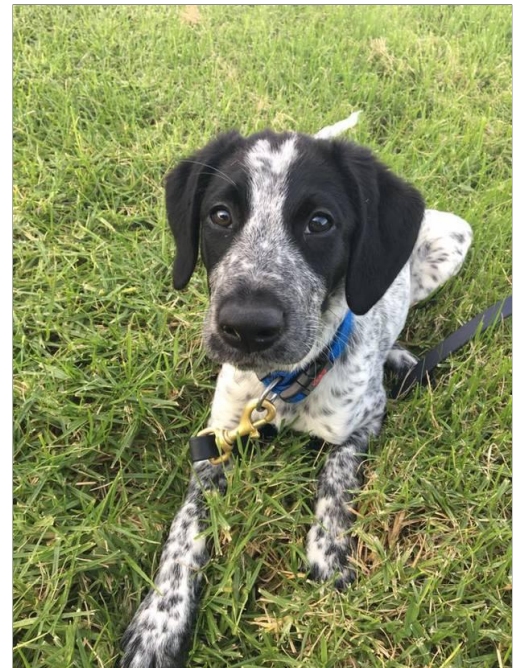


Lessons from Grizz, the dog

You may have read this week the findings from an investigation into the fatal shooting of Grizz, a working dog at Auckland Airport in March 2017.

This tragic incident highlights the fact that critical controls need to be in place where there is any risk of serious injury or fatality. The presence of a dog, on the loose, at a busy airport should have been identified as a serious hazard, and appropriate controls put in place to ensure the safety of aircraft and passengers.

Instead, the handler thought he could control the dog, and recapture him if he escaped, and therefore did not use a lead when transferring him from his kennel to a van at 3.30am. There was no secondary restraint or fencing and a gate was left open, "for convenience", between the compound and the airport runway.



Rather than follow procedures, hours were spent trying to recapture Grizz without the alarm being raised until 5.51am. By this stage landing aircraft were "warned of an animal on the loose which meant landing was at the pilot's discretion". Grizz was ultimately shot dead when multiple attempts to capture him failed.

IF YOU ARE RELYING ON PROCEDURES, AND OR PEOPLE, TO CONTROL RISKS OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH, YOU ARE SETTING YOUR SITE UP TO FAIL.

You need to ensure that:

- All hazards that could result in serious harm or death are identified at your site.
- Adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to risks of serious harm or death as a result of these hazards ("Hard controls", not procedures, administrative controls or PPE).
- Regular supervision and workplace inspections are conducted to ensure that controls are in place and are effective.
- Workers are encouraged to report any incidents involving these fatal hazards, whether or not someone is hurt, or equipment damaged. This will help you identify the precursors to these events and ensure controls are adequate.
- Talk regularly with workers about these fatal hazards and what can be done to avoid the risk of serious injury or death.

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

9 March 2018