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RCIPS News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Iguana death investigation continues

The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) is continuing with investigations into the deaths of seven endemic Blue iguanas at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanical Park last week (Sunday, May 4).

The moment police were made aware of the incident, an investigation began which included scenes of crime officers processing the scene.

“An autopsy conducted by the Department of Agriculture indicated that five of the deaths are consistent with dog bites. However human involvement is not being ruled out at this stage as the scene of the attack is not consistent with an attack by wild dogs” [says Carla Reid, Chair of the National Trust, who was present at a multi-agency discussion held on the case recently.](#)

“Officers are working hard on this investigation,” said Area Commander, Chief Inspector Richard Barrow. “We have spoken with a number of people who have, at this time, been ruled out of the enquiry. We have also examined one dog which has been ruled out. At this point we are keeping an open mind about what may have happened and are keen to determine the circumstances that led to the deaths of the iguanas.”

Officers investigating the incident are appealing for anyone with information to come forward: “We think someone knows what happened and I appeal directly to them to get in contact,” said Mr Barrow.

Mr Barrow also appealed to the community for information that may assist. “Even something that may not seem significant could help with our enquiries. In light of the autopsy information, we would like information on dogs that were either seen in the area on the night of the attack or animals that frequent that area, whether accompanied by an owner or not.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bodden Town Police Station on 947-2220 or Crime Stoppers on 800-8477 (TIPS). All persons calling crime stoppers can remain anonymous and are eligible for a reward of up to \$11,000, should their information lead to an arrest or recovery of property/drugs.

The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme was pioneered by the National Trust under the leadership of environmentalist and Director of the programme Fred Burton, MBE, to save the Blue Iguanas which are found only on Grand Cayman.

Supported by government, with donations from the local business community, the Programme facilitates captive breeding of the endangered Iguanas at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, which are later released into their natural habitat.

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