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when the bird is fed. But dehydration often masks the signs of obstruction,”

M s Butcher said.

Co-author Phil Kowalski, a veterinarian at The Nest Te Kōhanga at Wellington

Zoo in New Zealand, said even a single pla stic item could result in death if it

caused an obstruction or a perforation.

“So as part of our study, we developed a checklist of the clinical signs of gut

obstruction for veterinarians and wildl ife carers . We suggest that, if these signs

are present, clinics conduct an endoscopy to investigate further .”

Dr Ro man said practical policy responses will em power decision makers to

reduce albatross mortality from anthropogenic (huma n) sources.

“Conservation actions are currently prioritis ed towards more visible threats, such

as fishery interactions, oiling, and predation of chicks on bree ding isla nds.

However marine debris, along with disease and trauma, are not easily observed

threats, especially in pelagic seabird populations that spend m ost of their lives at

sea, ” Dr Ro man said.