

## Arapaoa Kiwi Dog Management Plan (draft only)

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### Our Goal

With our Arapaoa Kiwi project in its first stage, the objective of this plan is to provide guidance to the Arapaoa Island residents around dog ownership and control.

Most dog owners love and care for their animals. While a lot of dog owners ensure their animals are secure most of the time, our dog management plan will ensure we all have an understanding and knowledge of the risks to our kiwi and other wildlife on the island.

We will provide up-to-date information and training regularly to increase awareness of responsible dog ownership so that kiwi can be safe, thrive and live together with our dogs on Arapaoa Island.

### Why

New Zealand's national icon, the fluffy and flightless kiwi, is one of the most vulnerable birds in the country. Dogs are a major predator of adult kiwi. Dogs are fascinated by the distinctive kiwi smell and will search them out. Kiwis lack a breastbone so it is very easy for a dog to crush a kiwi.

For kiwi to be introduced onto Arapaoa Island, the risk from dogs must be addressed in the form of a dog management plan. This policy has been formulated from the policies and discussions with other kiwi conservation groups. There are numerous successful projects around the country which are utilising proven dog controls/training and kiwi are thriving in urban, rural and coastal areas around New Zealand.

### Types of Dogs vs Risk

- Farm and working dogs - these dogs are a lower risk, as they generally focused on their job and are under control from the farmer or handler. When not working, farm dogs should be under direct control and not allowed to roam free. Farm dogs are encouraged to be initially kiwi aversion trained and then checked annually.
- Hunting dogs - these dogs are a higher risk than farm dogs, as they are roaming away from direct control of the hunter. But they are still generally well trained, disciplined and focused on their job. Hunting dogs on the island should be initially aversion trained and then checked annually. It is strongly recommended hunting dogs on the island be fitted with GPS trackers, so they can be easily located if lost.
- Pet dogs - these dogs are the greatest risk to kiwi. Pet dogs are generally less focused and less disciplined than dogs with a job. Dogs that are based on the island or regular visitors, should be initially kiwi aversion trained and then checked annually, and remain in direct control of the owners at all times.
- Visiting dogs should remain in direct control of the owners at all times and be on a lead. Dogs should not roam freely.

## How We Can Achieve Our Goal?

Training programmes for working dogs and pets are aimed at protecting the kiwi. A combined approach will be implemented to minimise the risk of dogs attacking kiwi:

### Increase Awareness

Regular information, videos and resources will be shared with residents and locals via our newsletter, facebook page and website.

### Aversion Training

A local aversion trainer will be established, preferably from within the pig hunting fraternity. Aversion training will be rolled out to residents with regular updates when required. Aversion training on the mainland for hunters and frequent visitors will be offered multiple times annually. This service will be offered at no cost to dog owners.

### Signage

Kiwi and dog advisory signs will be placed at the major boat ramps in Picton and on all the main beaches and club mooring sites on the island. Signs also at the marinas at Picton, Waikawa, Mana and Wellington. Signs/notices given to the water taxi operators. Notices for the major hunting shops in Blenheim. Discussions with the hunting and boating clubs.

## Your Feedback

We encourage all Arapaoa Island residents to respond to us with your thoughts on our initial draft document. This is a crucial part of our project going forward and your feedback will provide the basis for our Dog Management Plan. We look forward to working together.

## Contact Us:

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