



**Dog owners helping
to keep kiwi safe**



**For more information, visit
www.kiwiavoidancetraining.nz**





Sometimes dogs need to go into
areas where kiwi live.
Let's work together to keep kiwi
safe in their own backyards.

About kiwi avoidance training

The best way to protect kiwi is to keep dogs out of kiwi habitat. However, if dogs have to be taken into kiwi habitat for work, kiwi avoidance training is one tool that can help reduce the threat that hunting and farming dogs pose to kiwi in the wild.

Why is kiwi avoidance training necessary?

Kiwi don't have breastplates and chest muscles to protect their internal organs like other birds do. This means just a gentle nudge from an inquisitive dog has the potential to crush its very delicate ribcage and internal organs – even if the dog wasn't being aggressive.

In some parts of New Zealand, councils have identified areas where dog access is restricted unless dogs have been kiwi avoidance trained. The Dog Control Act (1996) enables the destruction of any dog found to have injured or killed any protected wildlife, including kiwi.

Is kiwi avoidance training the only option?

No. The best option is simply to keep dogs away from places where kiwi live. If it is unavoidable to take a dog into a kiwi area, it should always be on a lead or contained.

What happens during kiwi avoidance training?

Before a dog can be trained to avoid kiwi, it must have been taught basic obedience, so it does what its owner asks. During training, an e-collar is put on the dog. The dog is walked past props like a taxidermied kiwi or kiwi nesting material. If it shows an interest in these objects, it gets a short sharp shock from the trainer, via the collar. The dog is then walked past similar props. If it avoids them, it has shown good kiwi avoidance behaviour. Refresher training is held every six, 12 or 24 months, depending on the outcome of the first training, to make sure the dog remembers what it has learnt.

How do I book?

Visit www.kiwiavoidancetraining.nz to find a trainer near you and enquire about their next training session.

After I have kiwi avoidance trained my dog, can I take it anywhere?

No. There is no guarantee (even with this training) that a dog won't kill a kiwi. Most conservation land is off limits to dogs (unless they are covered by a hunting permit). It is best to avoid taking dogs into areas where kiwi live. If this is unavoidable, ensure it is always on a lead or contained.