



## **Aviation Security (AvSec) Explosive Detector Dog Unit (EDDU) Foster Puppy Programme information sheet**

Thank you for your interest in the AvSec EDDU Foster Puppy Programme. By volunteering for this programme you will be providing a valuable service to your community, by helping ensure there is an adequate supply of suitable dogs for training as explosive detector dogs.

The dogs reared in the Puppy Development Programme are trained by AvSec EDDU as explosive detector dogs to protect aviation. They are also used to support the community in partnership with New Zealand Police.

Logistically, we will only be able to manage foster homes in the locations we have dog teams based, so you must be based in either **Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Queenstown or Dunedin** at this time.

We currently need four Auckland foster puppy homes. We have an ongoing need to purchase pups, so foster applications outside Auckland can join our waitlist.

### **What is involved?**

You will be asked to take on a 8-12 week old puppy for up to 12 months. During this time you will help the dog become comfortable in social settings and with different people and places. You will also train the dog to follow some key commands which will help it to start working towards the demanding role of an explosive detector dog. Dogs in the programme are usually energetic and active and may not be suitable for all homes.

### **How will we support you?**

Throughout the fostering period (up to 12 months), we will visit you regularly to ensure that the pup is on track, and to give you direction and guidance on how to care for the dog and resolve any problems. A member of EDDU will regularly collect the dog and take it to do specific development and assessments. We will also provide follow-up support for any issues occurring between these visits.

- We will provide dog food and all the equipment you will need (puppy crate, travel crate and an outdoor kennel and run).
- We also pay for approved veterinary visits and supply flea and worm treatments.



## What criteria must you meet?

To foster an AvSec EDDU dog, you must be able to provide a suitable environment that will support the dog's development. You will preferably own your own home or have permission from your landlord to have a dog. You must meet the following criteria:

1. Be prepared to follow our housing guidelines, training advice and rules for fostering an AvSec EDDU dog. We reserve the right to withdraw the dog from your care if these are not followed adequately.
2. Have a well-secured fenced property that can be used for toileting and training with the dog. The pup will need to be allowed inside the house at times, including crating at an early age. Then transitioning to an outside kennel and run once the pup is ready.
3. Be prepared to provide the dog with exercise and socialisation. This means giving the dog daily exercise, regular socialisation with different people, and exposure to places and things.
4. Someone in your household to be home-based for large parts of the day or working part-time to ensure a young pup can have regular outlet.
5. Have a vehicle that the dog can travel in safely to vet visits and for socialisation inside the AvSec-approved travel crate. If your family goes on holiday, EDDU will take the puppy whenever you cannot take the puppy safely with you.
6. You do not get to choose the pup – you are assigned one that is available and suitable.
7. The fostering process is generally a 12-month commitment, so you would need to be prepared to give the pup up after that time. EDDU reserve the right to remove a puppy from a foster home at any time if they believe it is in the best interest of the pup's development.



# Aviation Security Service

*Kaiwhakamaru Rererangi*

## **Other considerations:**

1. We prefer there are no other dogs in the household but we will consider this on a case by case basis.
2. If you rent your home, we ask that you provide a letter from your landlord consenting to you fostering an AvSec EDDU puppy or dog at their property.

## **What should you do next?**

If you think you could provide a suitable foster home, read this section carefully and the steps listed in the checklist document.

Please note that we will not be able to process your application if the required forms have not been fully completed.

## **Please note:**

If your application is approved, there may be a delay before a suitable dog is available.

There are a limited number of dogs available each year and unfortunately this means you may not be matched with a suitable dog.