



Title: 'Ear of the Dog

Short Description: Dog, Elsie Wagger, on-point for rabbits

Photographer: Tim Heath

Where and when: Pūrākaunui, July, 2021

Sustainability : Elsie is a rescued dog. Large and difficult when she arrived at age 3. She so nearly went back several times. But she has turned out to have a lovely, gentle nature. We think that she is part lab (a foodie), part Vizsler (some of the colour), and part greyhound (barrel chested and very quick). She walks with her nose, loves any mention of rabbits and knows to be gentle with birds and respectful of sheep. She led us to a Little Owl on the ground – either very young or sick. We put it back in the Macrocarpa that it nested in, and took a photograph that also appears in this gallery.

Dogs are great to remind us that when walking, we experience all weathers and learn something about the detail of where we live. In New Zealand they have been wonderful servants of conservation and so of sustainability. Specially trained dogs sniffed out the last possum on Kapiti Island to end a two-year eradication campaign, found the kākāpō on Rakiura Stewart Island that kick started their captive rearing campaign, detected a stoat inside the fence at Orokonui Ecosanctuary, and every day have protected our borders from biosecurity incursions that keep our island ecosystems secure and protect our biological economies.

Photographer's notes: iPhone 6+

Exposure: 1/1000s, f/2.2, 4.15 mm, ISO 32

Digital specs: 2,448 x 2,448 (6MP)

Key words: Walking, dogs, place, conservation, smell, biosecurity, owl, Tim Heath, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability.

Price: \$100 donation. Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, or to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *Dunedin Centre of the SPCA* (Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). You might choose to support the national SPCA movement, or your local centre, like our one in Dunedin <https://www.sPCA.nz/centre/dunedin-centre>. The SPCA does a wonderful job of helping distressed animals, homing unwanted dogs and cats, and being a watchdog for animal welfare in farming and domestic settings. Animal welfare is an important part of sustainable farming and maintaining ethical relationships with companion animals.

Image Ref: TH#004 (please use this reference in all orders and correspondence).

Tim Heath
9 December 2021