



DAFF helps find a new home for army detection dog

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has facilitated the efforts of the Department of Defence to find a new home in the United States for an Australian explosives detection dog, Harry.

Harry returned to Australia in October 2010 for mandatory post-arrival quarantine period at Eastern Creek Quarantine Station, where he underwent a series of veterinary inspections, testing and treatments. However, he tested positive for *Ehrlichia canis*, which he had acquired while serving with Australian combat forces in Afghanistan. Despite several months of treatment he was ineligible for release from quarantine to return to the general dog population of Australia. Infection with *E. canis* causes fever, depression and weight loss and can be fatal in dogs.

DAFF Biosecurity officers ensured Harry remained happy, healthy and posed no biosecurity threat to the dog population at Eastern Creek while officers from the Department of Defence worked to find him a new home. Inquiries were made with defence services in the US and the UK until a home was found with a US Army major still serving in Afghanistan. Harry will live with his new owner on an army base near San Diego where he will serve as a mascot.

Before leaving Australia, DAFF staff gave Harry a farewell party at Eastern Creek. His former handler, Joshua Colbourne, came to say goodbye and a retired Australian Army colonel presented Harry with combat service medals.