

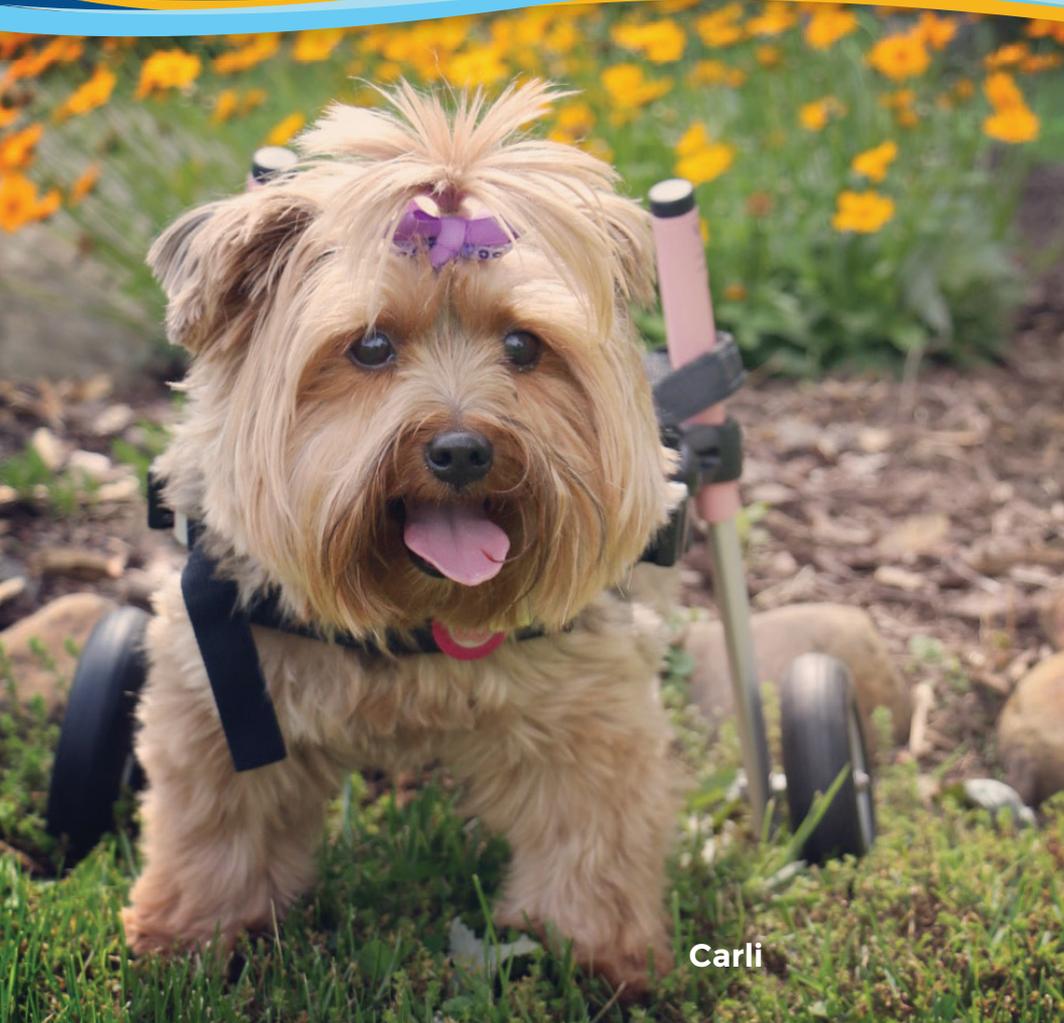


Walkin' Wheels<sup>®</sup>  
by HandicappedPets.com

# Owner's Manual

## Small Frame

with optional Fully Supportive Front Wheel Attachment



Carli

Thank you for purchasing Walkin' Wheels® Small dog wheelchair. Questions or comments? Call us at: (603) 577-8854 or email us at: [messages@HandicappedPets.com](mailto:messages@HandicappedPets.com).

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# Quick Start Guide

1. Set up wheelchair length (p.7), height (p.8), and width (p.8)
2. Attach Leg Rings to wheelchair (p.10)
3. Put Front Harness on dog (p.11)
4. Put dog in wheelchair:

Now that your dog is wearing the front harness, he/she is ready to get started. The wheelchair should be positioned with extenders slanted on the ground. Get behind the wheelchair, lift back legs up, and place dog's legs into the leg rings (if your dog is lightweight, you may lift him/her to do so). When the legs are through the rings, pull up extenders (side bars). Slide each extender through the D-Ring on the front harness, and clip in place.

**Instructional videos:** [hpets.net/swi](http://hpets.net/swi)

5. How to fit dog (adjustments p.13)

## Tips for adjusting length and width while dog is in wheelchair:

- Height: Rear toe pads just touch ground
- Length: Side extenders do not go past front leg
- Width: Widest Part of dog (usually the chest)



# Parts of the Walkin' Wheels® Rear Small Dog Wheelchair



Aluminum wheelchair frame with Width Connector and Extenders installed.



Width Connectors  
4" installed in frame.  
Use 7" for wider dogs.



Length Extenders  
The extenders are installed in frame.



Knuckle  
Attached to frame.



Tool kit with Allen wrench and cup screws for noise reduction; use if desired.



Leg Rings for rear support.



One Belly Belt for mid-section support; use if needed.



Stirrups to keep feet from dragging; use if needed.



Front Harness with comfort sleeves, fully adjustable.



Wheels attached to Struts  
4" foam wheels on 6" struts;  
other wheels were added if needed.



Instructional DVD video

# Teach Your Dog How to Use Walkin' Wheels®

We created the Walkin' Wheels® with the intention that you will adjust the wheelchair, put your pet in it, and in a few moments watch him/her running and playing again. It can happen that way, but it doesn't always. A wheelchair can be an adjustment for an animal. To some, there is a strange device following him/her around making odd noises and getting caught on furniture and doorways. They will adapt to these changes, but need a little time.

We recommend you be calm, quiet, and slow when putting on the wheelchair for the first time. Give your pet lots of stroking and reassurance. Treats help, too! Let the dog get used to the harness before attaching it to the wheelchair. It may take a few minutes or a few hours for your dog to get used to the harnesses.

See next page for important step-by-step tips to begin the process of getting your pet used to the Walkin' Wheels and starting on the path to a second chance for an active life.



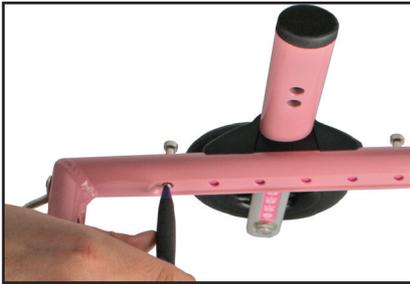
1. When starting this process we suggest that you use the dog's favorite treats to reward your dog for walking forward. You won't need to keep using these treats every day, just in the beginning of the training process. A hungry dog is a motivated dog! Work with your dog before you have fed him/her a meal. S/he will be more eager to pay attention and earn the food reward if s/he is hungry.
2. Do not immediately put your dog in the wheelchair. Assemble the wheelchair and leave it in an area where your dog can see, smell, and touch it.
3. Once the dog is comfortable near the wheelchair, put the front harness on and leave him/her alone for a while. Let the dog get used to the feeling of the straps.
4. When your dog is comfortable, try putting him/her in the leg ring support system and attach the front harness to the wheelchair. Give him/her a treat for positive association.
5. After your dog is in the wheelchair, hold the food reward right at his/her nose level. Feed several pieces. Then you can step one foot backwards, again holding the food reward in front of you. S/he should then walk toward you to get the treat. Before you know it, s/he is walking in his Walkin' Wheels®! Again, give a treat and positive praise.
6. Work in very short (5-10) minute sessions, several times a day. Give your dog rest periods between each session.

**Note:** *Keep in control of the dog's movement at first. Keep the dog in a clear area and on a short leash. If the dog does become frightened, then disconnect the harness from the wheelchair and try again later.*

Until your dog gets used to the Walkin' Wheels®, limit the amount of time spent in it. The Walkin' Wheels® is designed to allow your dog to get exercise and physical therapy. Dogs cannot lie down in the wheelchair, but will be able to urinate and defecate while in the wheelchair. Start with short periods and increase slowly. Make sure you don't overdo it the first day.

# Setting Up the Dog Wheelchair:

## Use Snap Buttons to Adjust Length, Width, and Height



The Snap Buttons are an easy way to adjust the length, width, and height of the Walkin' Wheels® dog wheelchair. Use an Allen key to push the Snap Button when it is inside the knuckle to make height adjustments.

## Adjusting the Length

**Note:** If you have the Front Wheel Attachment, remove the extenders and skip to p.16.



The extenders are for length adjustments. The kit comes with **one** set. To adjust the extenders, depress the snap button and move to desired length. The left and right are reversible.

## Is the Length Correct?

The end of the extenders should be positioned at the center of the dog's shoulder blades. The extenders should be touching the neoprene pads on the front harness and not pulling outward.

## Adjusting the Width

Use the snap buttons on the width connector to adjust the wheelchair to the proper width. There should be at least ½" on each side of the hips. The width adjustment will be determined by the widest part of the dog which is usually the chest. The width connector that is attached to the frame is 4" long and will extend to 6.5". A 7" width connector is also included for dogs that need more width (7"-9"). If you need additional width beyond that, call us at (888) 253-0777 to order the 10" connector, or order from our spare part listing:

WWC10-Small [www.HandicappedPets.com/spare-parts](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/spare-parts).



## Attaching the Struts and Wheels

You received your wheelchair with the correct size strut and wheel combination according to your dog's fold of flank measurement. Insert the strut into the wheelchair leg and adjust to the height needed. If you think you need a different size wheel and strut, contact us. The wheels go on the outside.



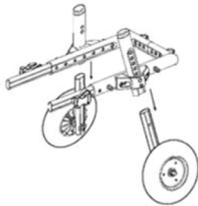
## Adjusting the Height

The correct height setting is based on the height and condition of the dog. If the dog has some use of its back legs, then use the snap buttons to adjust the height so the dog's toe pads are on the ground, and the dog can participate in the walking motion. If the back legs are very weak or paralyzed and scraping or knuckling under, put the legs in the stirrups (to hold them off the ground) or protect them with Walkin'® Pet Boots (see p.21).

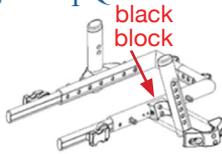
As shipped, your wheelchair will fit most small pets. However, there is an additional adjustment that can be made to further increase the height. The legs can be in the LONG LEGS or SHORT LEGS position (see photos on pp. 3&5). Wheelchairs are typically shipped with the wheels in the SHORT LEGS position.

There is a detailed “HOW TO” video on the DVD and online:

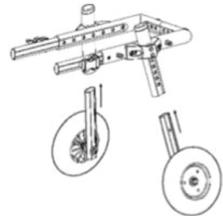
<https://youtu.be/CxuAgcBzZpQ>



Short Legs position



Remove knuckle, re-position leg that holds the wheel



Long Legs position

## Use a Phillips head screwdriver to change the position of the leg:

1. Remove the set screw and the wheel strut.
2. Loosen the knuckle with Phillips screwdriver, keeping the screws and washers in place.
3. Reposition the leg on the high setting where you see the two holes on the inside of the leg.
4. Align the knuckle and re-tighten the screws in the knuckle.
5. Make sure to keep the washers in place inside the screws. Make



sure the small black block is not installed upside down. **Adjust one side at a time because the Left and Right knuckles are different. You will see an L or R inside the plastic knuckle block to indicate the correct position. Make sure this is not upside down!**

## Stirrups

Stirrups are optional for paws that are dragging or knuckling under. The stirrups attach to the back of the wheelchair on each silver metal loop (also called “eye pads”). The rubber tubes on the stirrups need to be above the dog’s hock. Use the push lock to adjust to a snug fit. The dog’s leg should be several inches off the ground. You can adjust the length of the cord by re-tying the knot. If you use the stirrups, use both. Using only one stirrup causes the dog to feel unbalanced. **IMPORTANT: When taking the dog out of the wheelchair, make sure to release the stirrups FIRST.**



## Rear Support Leg Rings



The Leg Rings support the dog's hindquarters. They will take the weight off the legs while still allowing the dog to use its legs to maintain muscle mass. The Leg Rings should hang no lower than 2" below the frame. This will create a supportive cradle.



legs go  
inside  
each ring



Correct



Incorrect

When the dog is in the Leg Rings, the wheelchair knuckle should be at mid-hip level. The Leg Rings should look like two Cs, not two Vs, with the center connector holding them together.

## Clip the Leg Rings to the Wheelchair



The Leg Ring straps go **over** the frame, and the black plastic harness clips have a slot that fits **over** the Shoulder Socket screws. Put your thumb into the round circle and push upward to lock (you will hear it click into place). The round circle will face the ground. The dog's legs go through each ring.



Shoulder Socket screw

To release, put your thumb in the circle and pull downward. Now, you can slowly lower your dog to the ground. The excess Velcro strapping will cross over the dog's back, or Velcro together to form handles (see photos p.11).

The Velcro center connector can be moved forward or backward to avoid putting pressure on the dog's genitals (ideal for intact dogs). In addition, the Velcro connector can be wrapped loosely so there is space between the rings. The Velcro center connector **MUST** be used. Adjust for best comfort and fit.



Excess Velcro strapping can crisscross over rump.

*or*

Velcro two sides together to form handles.



The rubber tubing can be cut shorter if needed (**do not cut the strapping**). Try cutting about a 1/2" off all four ends of the rubber then adjusting the tri-glides on the straps to tighten them up.



## Front Harness Attachment



Adjust the extenders so they reach the harness clips on the front harness. The extender ends will go through each D-Ring and then clip into the front harness. The D-Rings should be positioned just behind the shoulder blades.



### Adjusting the Front Harness:

- Take the three black comfort sleeves off the harness so you can make sizing adjustments.
- Dog's head goes between the black straps.
- Red strap goes behind the front legs and clips into the side of harness.
- Male prong clips point to the back.
- All three straps should be snug.
- Comfort sleeves can be cut for smaller dogs and excess straps tucked in. This material will not fray.



## Changing Pocket Placement of D-Ring (optional)

Note: Unless advised to change pocket by a HandicappedPets.com customer service representative, keep the clip in **middle** pocket (the way it came) because the straps are adjustable. Needed: small Phillips screwdriver to remove (2) screws.

**Before starting, observe which direction the prongs are facing on the D-Ring. They should always face the rear end of dog.**

Parts:



(A) Bottom of Slide Clip



(B) Top of Slide Clip



(C) D-Ring



Step 1: Remove (2) screws from (B) top of Slide Clip



Step 2: Push out (B) top piece which holds (C) D-Ring



Step 3: Remove (A) bottom piece from middle pocket and replace into desired pocket



Step 4: Connect (C) D-Ring to (B) top piece and slide into (A) bottom piece

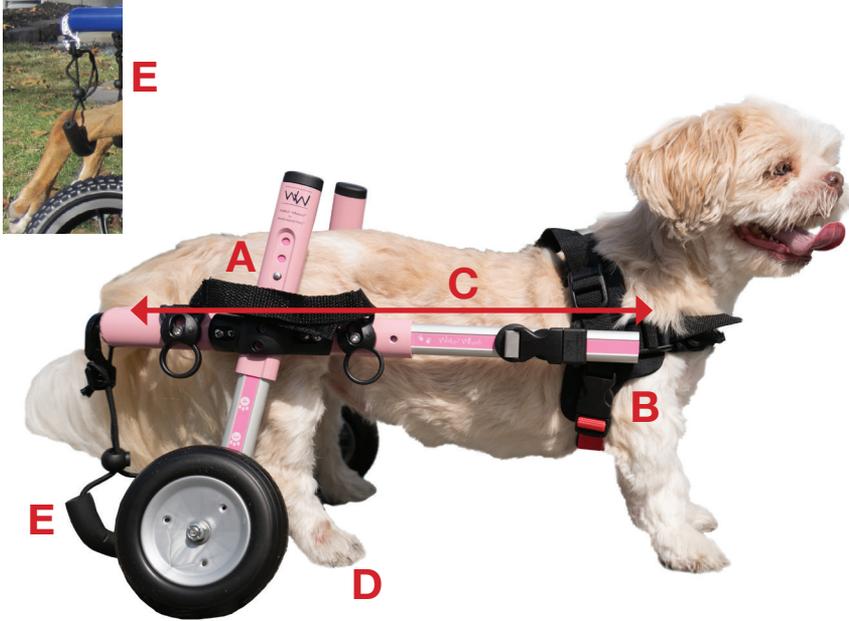


Step 5: Replace screws (2) on opposite side of entry point

# Is the Wheelchair Adjusted Properly?

Check the items below to make sure the wheelchair is fitted properly. If you are still unsure about the fit, please email rear and side view photographs of your dog in the wheelchair to:

[messages@handicappedpets.com](mailto:messages@handicappedpets.com), and we will evaluate the fitting. Make sure you include what name the wheelchair was ordered under and your phone or sales receipt number.



When the wheelchair is adjusted properly, the dog stands in a natural position. Here is what to check:

- A** Knuckles should be in line with the hips.
- B** Front harness D-Ring clips: clip into extenders behind shoulder blade. Back should be straight.
- C** Extenders parallel to the ground and do not extend past the front legs.
- D** Toe pads touching the ground, *or*
- E** Stirrup placed above hock.



INCORRECT

If the extenders tilt up, then loosen the black strap on the front harness over the dog's back, and tighten up the red bottom strap.



INCORRECT

If the extenders tilt down, loosen the red bottom strap, and tighten the black strap over the dog's back to raise extenders.



CORRECT

The side extenders should be parallel to the ground and in the middle of the dog's body.

## Optional Set Screws for Noise Reduction

Using the set screws will tighten up your wheelchair and reduce any rattling noises. The set screws also keep the wheelchair tight after it has been adjusted for your dog. When you tighten up the wheelchair, the side arms, called extenders, will be able to move up and down as your pet turns corners. This is completely normal. The flexibility also allows for ease of movement on uneven terrain. There are six places to put the set screws using the Allen wrench. They are indicated below with red arrows.

**Note: Make sure the set screws shown below are loosened or removed before making adjustments.**



## Belly Belt, if Needed

Some animals will need additional support under their belly. You can determine if the dog needs additional support if its spine bows downward. It is also helpful for overweight dogs or dogs with spinal or disc issues. One end of the belly belt has a tri-glide (rectangular with bar in the middle) attached and the other side has Velcro strapping. Both sides have a rope with a push button adjuster (instructions on p.16).



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C

- A. Take the side with the tri-glide and put the extender through the end of the loop.
- B. Take the rope and put inside the harness clip on the extender (B). Then, attach the front harness to the harness clip in order to secure the rope. This will keep the belly belt from sliding backwards. Now, adjust the belly belt so it is in the middle of the dog's belly.
- C. Secure the other side over the extender and Velcro to bottom of belly belt. The purpose of the belly belt is to provide support for your dog's mid-section.

If your dog needs more support, you can purchase the Walkin' Belly Support:

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-belly-support](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-belly-support)



## **This section is for assembling the Fully Supportive (Quad) wheelchair**

### **Walkin' Wheels® Front Wheel Attachment** *(purchased separately)*



The Walkin' Wheels® Front Wheel Attachment gives mobility to dogs with front leg weakness or weakness in all four legs. It is ideal for helping disabled pets get exercise and for rehabilitation while they are healing.

Like the rest of the Walkin' Wheels® products, the Front Wheel Attachment is adjustable so it will fit the Walkin' Wheels® wheelchair for any size dog from 8 to 25 pounds and can be easily removed at any time.

## In the Package

The Front Wheel Attachment is easy to assemble and snap into the wheelchair. You will need a Phillips head screwdriver. The package contains:



**A** Length Extender (2) with (4) socket shoulder screws attached

**B** Leg attached to knuckle and Length Extender (2)

**C1** 3" Wheel w/ caster adapter (2)

or **C2** 2" Wheel attached to strut (2)

**D** Leg Rings

**E** Bag of screws (only for replacements, if needed)

**IMPORTANT:** The LEFT and RIGHT Struts and Casters (B) must match the LEFT and RIGHT Legs (C). If they are not installed correctly the wheelchair will be extremely wobbly. We refer to L and R as if dog is in the wheelchair.

# Assembling Fully Supportive Wheelchair

Video instructions also available: [hpets.net/sfav](http://hpets.net/sfav)

## **Step 1 – Length: Left and Right Extenders (A & B)**

Take out existing side extenders on rear wheelchair and replace with the front wheel extenders. Socket Shoulder Screws (4) will be on the outside of wheelchair and used to attach leg rings.

## **Step 2 – Height: Struts and Wheels (C1 or C2)**

Insert the struts into the legs, making sure the left and right are on the correct side.

## **Step 3: Leg Rings (D)**

Install the leg rings (p.10). The straps go over the frame; insert the black plastic clip on the socket shoulder screw and push upward. You will hear a click when it is locked into place. Leg rings should look like two Cs, not two Vs (p.10).

The dog's leg will go inside each ring to support his/her body in the front. The front leg rings may be lower than the rear Leg Rings to accommodate the dog's full chest. To remove Leg Rings, put your thumb in the circle and pull down.

**Make sure that all Rs and Ls are on the proper sides.**

## **Step 4 – Width:**

Adjust width according to your dog's chest (which is usually the widest area).



Side view (3" wheels)



Front view (2" wheels)

## Putting Your Dog into the Fully Supportive (Quad) Wheelchair

After the fully supportive wheelchair is assembled, place your dog's legs into each leg ring and cross extra strapping from leg rings over the body or Velcro together to form handles (p.11).

**Height:** Set the height so that the dog's toe pads are touching the ground. Extenders need to be parallel to the ground.

**Length:** Dog's front leg should be centered between the two shoulder socket screws.

**Width:** Width is determined by the widest part of the dog (generally the dog's chest). Allow at least an inch of space on both sides.

**Leg Rings:** The leg rings in the front generally need to be a bit lower than in the rear to accommodate the dog's deeper chest. Adjust the leg rings accordingly.



## Optional Items and Accessories

### Walkin'® Small Front Vest

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-small-front-vest](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-small-front-vest)



This vest is designed for smaller breeds of dogs with a broad chest such as Dachshunds or Pugs. This wheelchair compatible vest is made of a durable neoprene material with Velcro enclosure on the belly and front of neck area.

### Walkin'® Lift Harness

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-lift-rear-harness](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-lift-rear-harness)



The Walkin'® Lift Harness is used to support your dog's hind quarters. This harness is compatible with the Walkin' Wheels® wheelchair, and can be used instead of the Leg Rings. The clip-in handles are used with this harness.

### Neoprene Front Harness for Quad

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-wheels-front-neoprene-harness](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-wheels-front-neoprene-harness)



The new Front Neoprene Harness is used to support the front legs of your dog. This harness is compatible with the Quad Walkin' Wheels wheelchair and can be used instead of the leg rings for extra support and comfort.

### Amputee Cover

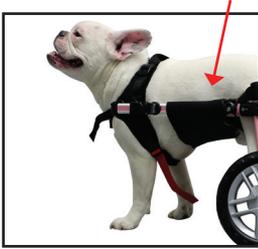
[www.HandicappedPets.com/amputee-leg-ring-cover](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/amputee-leg-ring-cover)



The amputee cover is for pets with a smooth amputation and works with the leg rings. The cover slips over the leg ring to close off one side for comfort.

## Walkin'® Belly Support

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-belly-support](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-belly-support)



The Walkin'® Belly Support helps provide additional support for your pet's back while in the Walkin' Wheels® wheelchair. Made of lightweight but strong neoprene fabric, the Belly Support helps raise the middle of the pet's body to relieve undue stress on back.

## Walkin'® Drag Bag

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-drag-bag](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-drag-bag)



The Walkin' Wheels® Drag Bag is designed for pets to use in the home when they are not in their chair. Great for protecting the chest and limbs. Prevents abrasions and sores that can be caused by scraping against carpets, floors, and rough surfaces.

## Walkin'® Pet Boots

[www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-pet-boots-for-dogs-and-cats](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/walkin-pet-boots-for-dogs-and-cats)



High quality, stay-on boots keep dogs from tracking dirt, mud, or snow into the house. Helps pets that drag their paws and provides confidence on slippery surfaces like hardwood floors. Ideal for dogs with cuts, bruises, or sensitive paws.

## No-Knuckling Training Sock

[www.HandicappedPets.com/no-knuckling-training-sock](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/no-knuckling-training-sock)



The No-Knuckling Training Sock should be used as a temporary training tool. It is intended for short-term, multiple use to help correct gait and improve hind paw placement.

# Handicapped Pets Foundation

[www.hpets.org](http://www.hpets.org)

The Handicapped Pets Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation dedicated to the health and well-being of aging, disabled, and injured pets. Its mission is to extend the life of pets by helping them move so that they can get the exercise they need to live long, happy, healthy lives; the Foundation donates wheelchairs to pets in need for this purpose. You can help!

Donations are gratefully accepted (checks payable to *Handicapped Pets Foundation*) and can be sent to:

Handicapped Pets Foundation, 14 Veterans Road, Unit 22 Amherst, NH 03031

## License Plate for Walkin' Wheels® Wheelchair

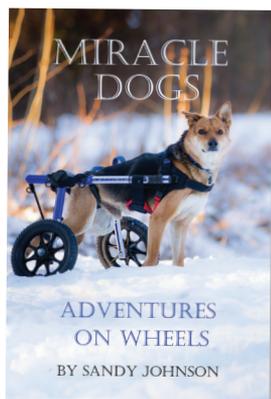
[www.HandicappedPets.com/dog-wheelchair-license-plate](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/dog-wheelchair-license-plate)

You can purchase a license plate for your dog's Walkin' Wheels®. Choose from dog breeds or upload your own photo for a custom



license plate. The license plate can be placed on the back of the dog wheelchair to make the perfect accessory to any Walkin' Wheels®. All profit on the sale of license plates goes to the Handicapped Pets Foundation!

## Miracle Dogs: Adventure on Wheels



[www.HandicappedPets.com/miracledogs](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/miracledogs)

Heartwarming true stories about pets, their owners, and their second chances. Written by prize-winning author Sandy Johnson, with a forward by the inventor of the Walkin' Wheels dog wheelchair, Mark C. Robinson.

If you, or someone you know, will do anything for the pet you love, this book is a must-read! All profit on the sale of this book go to the Handicapped Pets Foundation!

# **Wear, Maintenance, Liability & Guarantee**

## **Maintenance**

With proper use and maintenance, the wheelchair is designed to last a lifetime. When you need **replacement parts** for the wheels, harnesses, stickers, and other wear-and-tear items, they may be purchased at [www.HandicappedPets.com/spare-parts](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/spare-parts). The wheelchair frame will not rust. If dirt or sand gets inside the wheelchair, you can hose it off. All components can be removed and cleaned. Oiling is not necessary.

## **Limited Liability**

Walkin' Wheels® is provided as a walking aid for animals that are under the care of a veterinarian and for which a dog wheelchair has been recommended. Wheels for Pets, LLC, and its affiliates, agents, and distributors make no representation to the effectiveness or appropriateness of this product.

## **Guarantee**

The Walkin' Wheels® wheelchair frame is guaranteed by the manufacturer, Wheels for Pets, LLC, for five years from the date of purchase against defects in material or workmanship. If the frame breaks under normal usage, please let us know, and we will repair or replace the wheelchair at our option. You are responsible for all shipping charges. Warranty is non-transferable.

## **Return Policy**

We are here to help your pet get the best fit possible. If there is a problem we cannot correct, contact us within 30 days from the day the wheelchair arrived, and we will issue a return authorization number (RA). If refurbishing is needed due to scratches or wear, this will reduce your refund. The RA# must be written on the outside of shipping box, or a refund will not be considered. A Return Authorization Form is required for returns. This form is included in the "Important Document" plastic sleeve on the outside of the shipping box:

[www.HandicappedPets.com/form/WalkinWheelsReturnPolicy060116.pdf](http://www.HandicappedPets.com/form/WalkinWheelsReturnPolicy060116.pdf)

# On a Roll through All Seasons



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[www.HandicappedPets.com](http://www.HandicappedPets.com)

Patents: US 7549398 • Japan 5385584 • Canada 2641092 • EPO 2 050 418  
Trademarks: Walkin' Wheels® 4,765,026 • 4,882,354 • 3,725,405 • 4,765,026  
Other patents pending and trademarks pending.