

ESSENTIAL GUIDE OF PRODUCTS FOR HANDICAPPED DOGS

WITH PARALYSIS, SPINE ISSUES, NEUROLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND ARTHRITIS

This e-book contains affiliate links which means I earn a small commission when you make a purchase.

However, this does not sway my opinion of the products mentioned.

Dog Wheelchair LIFE



Dog Wheelchair LIFE (formerly Lessons From A Paralyzed Dog) began as a tribute to my dog Sophie who was paralyzed for 5 years. My goal is to support pet families who are facing similar mobility challenges with their own dog. That support comes in the form of sharing information, products, and the latest veterinary research. I want pet owners to have the resources they need to provide the best possible care for their “handi-capable” dog.

Here is a list of the essential products pet parents ask me about most often. Many are products Sophie and I used while others are new products, I discovered from pet owners who subscribe to Dog Wheelchair LIFE. Each case of paralysis is unique so **please check with your dog’s veterinarian before using any new product.**

“Disability is not the end of your pet’s world;
it is the beginning of a *new normal* way of life.”
- Sharon Seltzer, Sophie’s Mom



PREFERRED RETAILERS

Here are my favorite companies that offer essential products for disabled pets:

- HandicappedPets.com (Walkin' Pets)
- My Amazon Favorites on the Dogwheelchairlife.com Home Page
- [Walkabout Harnesses](#)
- [Barkertime](#)
- [Eddie's Wheels](#)
- [Roller Skate with Maximus](#)

COME JOIN US



BEDS

Orthopedic Dog Bed – An orthopedic foam mattress will decrease the risk of your dog developing pressure sores. Make sure the cover is machine washable and has a concave shape or bolsters. Paralyzed dogs can fall off a hard flat-mattress or one that's too puffy and pillow shaped. Here are two examples:

- **Friends Forever** – This orthopedic bed provides comfort and the protection of bolsters to keep your paralyzed dog safe. Read more on my Amazon Favorites.
- **Kuranda Dog Bed** – This elevated bed supports dogs up to 100lbs. (They also make heavier beds) Its orthopedic raised design makes it easy for dogs with hind end weakness to get in and out of bed. Kuranda beds have been around a long time and have a great reputation.

Waterproof Dog Bed - Paralyzed dogs are likely to be incontinent. Because of this, some pet parents prefer a waterproof bed. I like two different types:

- [The SleePee Time Bed®](#) lets dogs sleep on a comfortable mesh bed so fluid can flow through and into a tray beneath it.
- [Komfy K9](#) is a quilted plush bed with a comfy inflatable inner mattress. The bed covers are easily removed for laundry.

DogSheetz – If you already have an orthopedic dog bed that your pup loves, try adding a waterproof dog bed cover. DogSheetz makes a cover to keep your dog dry. It fits over most dog beds. It's machine washable and made of soft fleece.

CRATE REST

Crates and X-Pens – Many paralyzed dogs are confined to periods of strict rest after spine surgery or an IVDD episode. You can make them comfortable with the right crate or X-Pen. Make sure the one you choose is large enough for your dog to turn around, but not too big to hurt themselves.

The 3 most common crates are:

- **Wire Crates** – Be sure it's foldable for storage
- **Exercise Pens (X-Pens)** – Be sure to get one with a door for easy access
- **Indoor/Outdoor** – These soft folding crates are a great new option

You can see examples in our [Amazon Favorites](#).

HARNESSES

Support Harness – Dogs with spine problems or arthritis that are able to stand on their own will benefit from a support harness. These harnesses fit around the waist and allow you to safely assist your dog. It gives extra support while your dog walks, climbs stairs or gets in or out of a vehicle. Three brands I like are: [Ginger Lead](#), Help 'Em Up and AST.

Lifting Harnesses – [Walkabout Harnesses](#) offers rear lifting, belly lifting and amputee lifting harnesses for dogs with hind end weakness and paralysis. There is also a large selection of

products to improve the quality of life for dogs with orthopedic problems and recovery after surgery..

MOBILITY

Strollers and Doggy Ride Trailers – There’s a big assortment of strollers and dog trailers for dogs with disabilities. Each enables gives the gift of mobility to your pet so they can enjoy the sights and smells of the outdoors. Strollers are a good option for small to medium dogs, while dog trailers are great for large breeds. Be sure the stroller you choose protects your dog from accidently falling out.

Dog Wheelchair/Cart–This mobility device can be a miracle for a paralyzed dog. They allow your pup to move around on their own and run and play like they did when they were healthy. Wheelchairs come in sizes to fit every pet and their unique disability. Measurements must be taken so each cart (wheelchair) fits properly.

It’s important to purchase a quality made cart. My favorites are: [Walkin’ Wheels](#), Eddie’s Wheels, K-9 Carts, Ruff Rollin and Modullo Dog (if you’re in Europe).

Dog brace – There are a number of braces to improve your dog’s mobility. WiggleLess makes a full body brace for dogs recovering from an IVDD episode. Orthodog makes braces that strengthen a dog’s hips and knees.

Skates for dogs – Roller skate with Maximus is an interesting new product. They’re sturdy canine roller skates for dogs with hind end weakness. The skates can be added to a dog wheelchair or they can be used with a leash for walks.

Ramps – Dogs that can still walk will benefit from ramps to help them climb into cars and other high places. Ramps that are made for indoor use are gaining in popularity as a prevention for back injuries.

INCONTINENCE SUPPLIES & AIDS

Dog Diapers and Protection Pee Pads – Dogs with spinal problems are likely to become incontinent. The best gift you can give your incontinent dog is to learn how to express their bladder. Your veterinarian can teach you how to do this. In addition, doggie diapers and pee pads should be on hand for added protection and nighttime accidents.

Baby wipes and clean towels – Having these essential items on hand while you are home or in the car will help you quickly clean up accidents and keep your dog's skin protected from urine scald.

Washable Dog Diapers, Pajamas & Peejamas - Dog diapers that fit snugly and can be tossed in the washer to be used again are another option. [Barkertime](#) has many styles of washable diapers and Pajamas that hold disposable diapers in place. They also offer [PeeJamas](#) which is a comfy body suit that can be worn after surgery instead of a cone.

Veterinary recommended shampoo and rinse – Paralyzed dogs that are incontinent (especially those with long fur) will need to be bathed more often than a healthy dog. Make sure the shampoo and rinse you use are veterinary recommended for being mild and moisturizing.

Soothing urine scald & other skin problems - Incontinent dogs are prone to urine scald that can burn their skin. Here are several products to soothe sensitive areas and keep away yeast overgrowth: American Kennel Tea Tree Oil, Smooth & Cool perineal wash, Vetericyn Wound & Skin Care, EMT Gel, and Neosporin. A self-adherent wrap like Coban or VetWrap helps as well.

Disinfectant products to keep eliminate urine odor – Here are reader recommended products: Nature's Miracle for Dogs, Super Concentrated Odor Eliminator, F10 Veterinary Disinfectant, BioKleen Bac-Out and Furry Freshness.

PAW PROTECTION

Boots – [Handicapped Pets](#) and [Walkabout Harness](#) both make durable and breathable boots that protect the paws of a dog that no longer has feeling in them. They can be used in conjunction with a dog wheelchair/cart so a dog doesn't scrape their paws.

PROTECTION (CONT.)

No-Knuckle Sock – This is a training sock that keeps a dog’s paws from knuckling under. It’s meant to be worn for short periods of time and is helpful for dogs who are losing the ability to walk and those who are recovering from spine surgery.

Drag Bag or Scoot Bag – Many paralyzed dogs are great at scooting around the house. These dogs benefit greatly from a drag bag or scoot bag that keeps the lower half of their body protected. Brands to explore are: HandicappetPets.com, Barkertime, and [Doggie Essentials](http://DoggieEssentials).

Pressure Sores and Skin Protection - Some dogs develop sores when their skin rubs against a wheelchair. A small sheepskin pad placed in the area of obstruction can prevent this. [Just Merino Sheepskin](http://JustMerinoSheepskin) is one manufacturer that makes custom sheepskin pads. Other pet owners use dog compression sleeves to protect against pressure sores. You can also turn to products that soothe the skin like: A& D antibacterial cream or Bactroban (be sure the product doesn’t contain zinc.) A layer of gauze, baby socks or a vet wrap (Coban wrap) can further protect the skin.

All-Natural Skin Protection – Manuka honey improves skin from a pressure sore or urine scald. Other products pet owners like are: Chamomile, coconut oil, aloe vera and vitamin E. (Talk with your vet before using any new product.)

Onesies to protect the skin – A human baby onesie pajamas can be used to protect your dog’s skin. They’re great for small dogs and inexpensive to buy. Another option made for a dog’s body is Mozzie Pants. This company offers leak-proof doggie jeans.