

## Products That Make A Disabled Dog's Life Better

### Answered by real-life pet parents of paralyzed dogs

The members of the Dog Wheelchair LIFE Group on Facebook answered this question: What Products Make Your Disabled Dog's Life Better?

They shared a list of products they use every day to keep their pets safe and healthy and to simplify life. If you're just starting this journey with a paralyzed pup, you'll find this list indispensable.

Pair it with our free E-book ["Essential Guide for Handicapped Dogs"](#) and you'll be ready to take on any challenge.

Most people know that paralyzed dogs benefit from a wheelchair, but there are dozens of other vital products that improve daily life. Hopefully our list will save you time on locating them.

***Click on any highlighted item to see more details.***

**Steps** – Dogs with spine problems should never jump on or off high places, like furniture or beds. Portable dog steps can stop this. Pet mom Linda recommends steps made from **high density foam** for Logan, her Papillon. Steps come in lots of sizes and materials.

**Ramps**- Like steps, dog ramps prevent animals with limited mobility from jumping. Dog ramps are available for indoor use and assisting dogs in and out of vehicles. Add [traction strips](#) to keep dogs from slipping.

**Carpet Tiles and Yoga Mats** – Slipping on slick surfaces is a big problem, but members of our group found an easy and inexpensive solution with carpet tiles and yoga mats. Both give extra traction for dogs with hind end weakness.

**Pack 'N Play** – These soft sided play pens for human babies are wildly popular for paralyzed dogs. Pet owners use them to protect a dog while they're on crate rest and to keep dogs safe while they sleep or while you're away. One pet parent keeps a Pack 'N Play by her bed so her dog can sleep close, without injuring himself. Pack 'N Plays are easy to clean and easy to move around.

**Waterproof Blankets** – Beautiful plush throws and blankets recently hit the market and pet parents love them. They're pretty enough to drape over any piece of furniture. Dogs enjoy cuddling in them and they blankets are completely washable if your pet leaks urine or has an accident.

**Beds** – Orthopedic dog beds from Orvis rank high on the list of products that make life better along with another type of bed called, [elevated cots](#). Two pet moms from our group, Heather and Debra, both use these cots because they're easy for dogs with mobility problems to get in and out. The raised cots are also made of mesh, so urine can pass through them. Add a pee pad

underneath for easy clean up. Pet mom Debra places her dog's cart inside a dog crate so her pup can't fall off.

**Waterproof Beds** – Most dog bed manufacturers now offer waterproof covers and liners for incontinent pets. Just remove the cover or interior liner and toss it into the wash so it stays clean and fresh.

**Support Harness** – Many of our members highly recommend adding a support harness to daily life. These are great aids to assist large dogs move around and helpful for owners who can't bend down to pick up a small dog. The 3 favorite brands are: Help 'Em Up, Walkabout Harnesses and Gingerlead.

**[Raised Food and Water Bowls](#)** – Whether your dog is in a wheelchair or scoots on the floor, bending down to eat or drink from a standard bowl is hard when you're disabled. Plus, many forms of paralysis stem from a dog's neck so putting pressure on the area while they eat is an absolute NO. Raised bowls fix all of that. They sit on a stand or pedestal so dogs can eat from an upright position. A new product called [Fluff Trough](#) allows a dog to pull their cart right into the eating area.

**Pee Pads, Diapers, Male Belly Bands and Baby Wipes** – These are products every pet parent should have in the house and in the car. Pee pads can provide protection, everywhere your dog likes to lie down. Unscented baby wipes make for easy clean ups for your home and to wipe down your dog. Dog diapers and belly bands are essential for accidents and leakage. One pet owner shared her unique use for a diaper. She uses it to cover her dog's hind end when he scoots on the floor. No more rug burns for that pup.

**[Drag bags](#)** – Another way people keep their dogs dry and their skin protected is with a drag bag. Dogs slip inside and can happily scoot all over without injuring themselves. A clever waterproof drag bag from Wonky Wear separates the bottom of the bag into legs to protect your dog's hind limbs.

**Strollers** – Some dogs don't like a wheelchair or their health doesn't allow them to be in one. When that happens, a dog stroller or trailer can be a lifesaver.

**Back Brace** – One of our group members said [Lil Back Bracer](#) is her favorite product. It gives stability to the spine of a wobbly walker. (*Talk with your vet before using a brace on your dog.*)

**Duct tape (*Duck tape*)** – You'd be surprised about all the uses for this product. Duct tape can keep diapers in place, wrap over gauze to protect a dog's limbs or used to protect delicate paws from being dragged over uneven surfaces. It's a product to always have on hand.

**Bath Supplies** – Pet mom Amy knows having a paraplegic dog means there will be lots of baths. Dogs get dirty running in their wheels, scooting on the floor and from potty accidents. [Pet Potion](#) products are her favorites for quick clean ups.

**Enrichment Toys** – Keeping your pup engaged in normal dog activities is important. Enrichment toys like dog treat puzzles or snuffle mats allow a dog to play even when they can't run around.

**Ice cubes** – Pet mom Michelle says her favorite product is an ice cube. She uses it to stimulate her dog, Phil, when he has to poop. Read more here before using this: [Techniques to Manage Bowel Incontinence.](#)