



# Walkin' Wheels



Tucker



Molly

## Walkin' Wheels<sup>®</sup>

### Mini

### Owner's Manual

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*With instructions for optional 4-wheel adapter*

Walkin' Wheels<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Wheels for Pets, LLC

US Patent 7,549,398. Canada 2,641,092

Euro 2050418, Japan 5385584, other patents pending.

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Thank you for purchasing Walkin' Wheels® Mini dog wheelchair. Questions or comments? Call us 0800 072 3697, 0044(0)7791 414757 or email us at: [julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk](mailto:julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk)

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# Parts of the Walkin' Wheels Mini Dog Wheelchair



Aluminium wheelchair frame with extenders, connector and knuckle attached



Instruction Video and just-for-fun movies.



Extra 7" Connector for wider dogs.



Tool kit for stability of the wheelchair



Leg Rings for rear support



Belly Belt for mid support (use if needed)



Stirrups to keep the feet from dragging, if needed



4" foam wheels on 6" struts (other wheels were added if needed, see "Wheel/Strut options", next page.)



Front Harness with comfort sleeves

For spare parts and accessories contact [julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk](mailto:julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk), call 0800 072 3697 or 0044(0)7791 414757

## Wheel/Strut options

All Mini wheelchairs come standard with 4” wheels on 6” struts. This will fit dogs with a fold of flank from 3” to 7”. For dogs taller than 7” or heavier than 20 lbs. your order includes a second set of wheels. This wheelchair is compatible with 4” or 8” wheels and 9” or 11” struts for additional height.

If you received an additional wheel/strut assembly, it is correct for your dog’s height/weight.

### To measure the fold of flank of your pet

The Fold of the Flank (FOF) is the thin piece of skin that connects the dog’s upper rear leg to his body. It looks like the webbing between a person’s fingers.



### Tips to teach your dog to use Walkin’ Wheels®

Walkin’ Wheels® was created 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 a major 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. Sometimes, they are put into the wheelchair and take off before you know it!

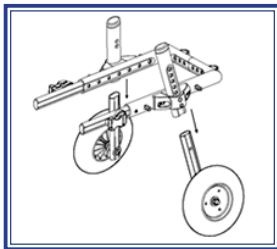
1. When starting this process we suggest that you use really good treats like chicken, lunchmeat or cheese to reward your dog for positive re-enforcement/behavior. Dog biscuits are usually not good enough for him/her to get excited about. You won’t need to keep using these treats every day, just in the beginning of the training process. A hungry dog is a motivated dog! Work with your dog before you have fed him a meal. He will be more eager to pay attention and earn the food reward if 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 it, smell it and touch it.
3. Once he is comfortable near the wheelchair, put the front harness on him and leave him alone for a while, getting used to the feeling of the straps.

4. When your dog is comfortable, try putting him in the leg ring support system and attach the front harness to the wheelchair. Give him a treat for positive association.
5. After your dog is in the wheelchair hold the food reward right at his nose level. Feed him several pieces. Then you can move one step backwards, again holding the food reward in front of you. He should then walk towards you to get the treat. Before you know it, he is walking in his Walkin' Wheels! Again, give him 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.

## Getting Started

Your Walkin' Wheels mini package contains everything you need to fit your small pet. In most cases, all you will need to do is snap in the wheel struts, clip in the rear leg rings, and fit the front harness on the dog and go! If you need help, there are instructions on your DVD or you can call us.

Use the snap buttons to adjust the height, width, and length of the wheelchair. You may need to use a pen or other narrow object to push the snap buttons into place.



## Put the front harness on your pet

The dog's head goes between the two BLACK straps. The side panels will be positioned at the shoulders. The RED strap goes under the dog's chest, behind the front legs then clips into the harness on the side.

For convenience, you can remove the comfort sleeves to get the straps snug on your dog.

The excess strapping will be tucked into the comfort sleeves. If the comfort sleeves are too long, you can cut them in half.





## Rear Support: Leg Rings

This is your support for the dog's hind quarters. It will take the weight off your pet's legs but still allow him/her to use them to develop muscle.

The leg rings need to be fairly tight to create a firm 'seat' or saddle for the dog. The leg rings should hang no lower than 1 inch below the frame. When the dog is in the leg rings, the black knuckle should be at mid-hip level.

The leg rings should look like two C's and not two V's with the centre connector holding them together. The excess strapping could be criss-crossed over the dog's back or Velcro the sides together to make handles.



The Velcro centre 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 centre connector **MUST** be used. Adjust for best comfort and fit.

## Clip the leg rings to the wheelchair

The leg ring straps go **OVER** the frame as shown on figure 1.

The black plastic harness clips (figure 2) have a slot that fits over the shoulder socket screws. Put your thumb into the round circle and push upward to lock, down to release (you will hear it click into place). The round circle will face the ground.

The dog's legs go through each ring. (figures 3 and 4) The rubber tubing can be cut shorter if needed (do not cut the strapping).

The excess Velcro strapping can cross over the dog's back.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

# Now you are ready to put your dog into the wheelchair.

## Knuckles

The black plastic pieces that connect the legs to the frame are called Knuckles. The wheel struts that are attached to the wheel will fit up inside the leg and snap into place with the snap button on the strut.



## Height Adjustment

The correct height setting is based on the condition of the dog. If the dog has some use of his/her back legs, then set the height so the dog's toe pads are on the ground. The push buttons can easily be pushed in to change the height. If the push button is inside the black knuckle, you can use a pen or narrow object to go to the next button position. If the paws are scraping on the ground or knuckling under, put the legs in the stirrups or protect them with Boots.

## Stirrups

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 about 3" 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**.





## Length Adjustment

The front harness attaches to the extenders behind the shoulder blades. Adjust the extenders (side rails) so they reach the harness clips on the front harness. The extenders will go through the D-rings and then clip into the front harness. The end of the extenders should be 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. The extenders should be level to the ground. If they tilt up, then loosen the black strap on the front harness over the dog's back and tighten up the red chest strap. If the extenders tilt down, loosen the red chest strap and tighten the black strap over the dog's back. If the extenders are not parallel to each other adjust the width using the connector (see below).

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



Right: Level



Wrong: Tilt UP



Wrong: Tilt DOWN

## Width Adjustment

Use the snap buttons on the width connector to adjust the wheelchair to the proper width. There should be at least 1/2" 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". If you need additional width, we have also included a 7" connector that adjusts to 9". Remove the 4" connector and replace it with the 7" connector.

If you need even more width, please contact [wheels4dogs.co.uk](http://wheels4dogs.co.uk) to order the 10" connector email [julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk](mailto:julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk), Call 0800 072 3697 or 07791 414757



# Is the wheelchair adjusted properly?

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



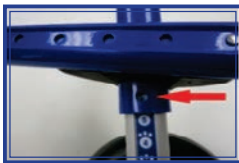
- Knuckles (A) should be in line with the hips.
- Front harness D-Ring clips (B) clip into extenders behind shoulder blade. Back should be straight.
- Extenders (C) parallel to the ground and do not go past the front legs.
- Rear leg rings cradle hind quarters to form a saddle.

If you are unsure whether the wheelchair is fitted properly, please email rear view and side view photographs of your dog in the wheelchair to: [julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk](mailto:julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk) and we will review the fitting. Make sure you include the reference the wheelchair was ordered under and your phone number.

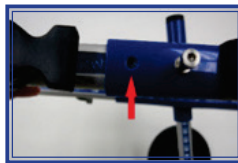
## Optional - Insert set screws for stability

Using the set screws will tighten up your wheelchair and stop any rattling noises. The set screws also keep the wheelchair tight after it has been adjusted for your dog, using the Allen key (included in tool kit). Do not over tighten. 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 Key



Bottom of Leg, inside



Side of Frame



Back of Frame

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Why does my dog walk backwards?

Animals use their back legs to move forward and their front legs to stop. It is normal, therefore, for the dog to push back on the front legs and move backwards. With encouragement, they quickly learn to move by pulling themselves forward with their front legs. Use the training tips to help your pet adjust.

### Can they do their business in the wheelchair?

Pets are able to urinate and defecate while in the wheelchair without soiling themselves. They will do this standing up and do not need to squat or lift a leg.

### Why is my dog getting upset?

Remain quiet and move slowly when putting on the wheelchair for the first time. Give him/her lots of stroking and reassurance. Good treats help too! Let your pet get used to the front harness before attaching it to the wheelchair.

### Can I let my dog run loose?

Remain in control of the animal's movements. Keep him or her in a clear area at first and on a short leash if outside. If your pet becomes frightened, then disconnect the harness from the wheelchair and try again later.

### How long should I keep my dog in the chair?

Until your pet gets used to using 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. Typically, dogs cannot lie down in the wheelchair except for smaller breeds which can lay on a pillow to rest for a short amount of time. The pillow will help support their back while in the wheelchair. Your pet can be in the wheelchair for up to an hour and then will need to be taken out to rest.

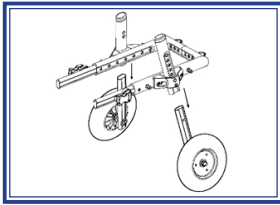


## Increasing Height – Short Legs/Long Legs

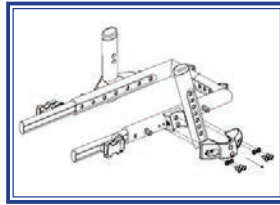
As shipped, your wheelchair will fit most small pets. However, there is an additional adjustment that can be made to further increase the height. The legs can be in the LONG LEGS or SHORT LEGS position. Wheelchairs are typically shipped with the wheels in the SHORT LEGS position. A Phillips head screwdriver is needed to make this adjustment.

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

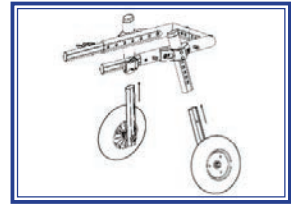
## To change the position of the leg:



The Short Leg Position



Remove the knuckle, re-position the leg that holds the wheel.



Long Leg position.

- (1) Remove the set screw and the wheel strut.
- (2) Remove the knuckle with Phillips screwdriver keeping the screws and the 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.

**Make sure to keep the washers in place inside the screws. Make sure the small black block doesn't go back upside down.**

**Adjust one side at a time because the Left and Right knuckles are different.**



small black block

**Note: You will see an L or R inside the plastic knuckle block to indicate the correct position.**

## Troubleshooting:

The knuckle parts fit together without force. There is a left and right specific knuckle. If your parts do not fit easily, check that you have the correct left or right part. Each part is labeled on the inside with an R or L.

## Adjusting the Length

Adjust the side extenders so that the D-Ring on the Front Harness is behind the shoulder blade of the dog. The extender should be touching the neoprene side panels on the Front Harness and NOT pulling outward. Side extenders should not go past dog's front leg.



## Belly Belt

Some animals will need additional support under their belly. You can tell the dog needs additional support if their spine bows downwards or if dog is overweight, or has any 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.



Figure A

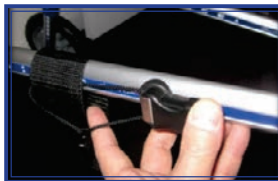


Figure B



Figure C

- Take the side with the tri glide (Figure 1) and put the extender through the end loop.
- Take the rope and put inside the harness clip on the extender. After you attach the front harness to the harness clip, the rope will be secured. This will keep the belt from sliding backwards. Now, adjust the belly belt so it is in the middle of the belly.
- 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.

Figure 1



## Amputee cover - optional purchase (see pg. 17)

If your dog's leg has been amputated with no stump, use the amputee cover that slips over the rear leg rings. If there is a stump, then the leg rings are used with the stump going inside one of the holes on the leg rings.



## Full support, 4 wheel wheelchair

The Four Wheel, Fully Supportive Dog Wheelchair is also called a “Quad Wheelchair” because it was originally used for quadriplegic dogs that could not walk at all. Now, though, due to the unique adjustability of the Walkin’ Wheels, a four wheel dog wheelchair can be used for dogs that can still walk, but cannot support their full weight. The Full Support dog wheelchair is also used in clinics and hospitals for massage, acupuncture, and other therapies.

The front wheel attachment can be purchased separately if you need four wheeled support in the future.

Instead of using the extenders that come with the rear wheelchair, you will use the extender set that comes with the front attachment kit. **You will not need to use the front harness that comes with the rear wheelchair.** Instead, you will be using the leg rings (just like in the back) for the front support.

## Instructions for Mini Front Walkin’ Wheel Attachment

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

Like the rest of Walkin’ Wheels products, the mini front wheel extension is adjustable so it will fit the Walkin’ Wheels wheelchair for any size dog from 7 to 25 pounds and can be easily removed at any time.

## Parts of the Front Wheel Attachment



The front wheel kit attachment is easy to assemble and snap into the wheelchair. The package contains:

- A- Left and Right Length Extenders (2). These replace the length extenders that originally came with your Walkin' Wheels Rear Wheelchair. The front knuckles will have a white label with "left front" or "right front". Position the extenders so the shoulder socket screws will be on the outside of the wheelchair. The front leg rings attach to shoulder socket screws, located on the outside of the wheelchair.
- B- Struts and Legs (2). The silver strut will fit inside the wheelchair leg on the frame. Adjust the height by using the push button on the strut.
- C1- Leg Adapters (2). The strut, wheel, caster adapters are only for the 3" casters. The caster adapters are marked with a raised "L" or "R" to indicate the legs are installed on the correct side. **The raised L or R will face the inside of the wheelchair with you standing behind the wheelchair.**
- C2- Struts and wheels (2). Strut attached to 2" wheel which is for shorter dogs like Dachshunds.
- D- Front Leg Rings (1 set). The front leg rings are installed just like the rear leg rings. The straps go over the frame. Insert the black plastic clip onto the shoulder socket screw and push upward. You will hear a click when it is locked into place. Leg rings should look like two C's and not two V's. The dog's legs will go inside each ring to support his/her body in the front. To remove the Leg Rings, put your thumb on the circle and pull down.

Note: Make sure the extenders are parallel to the ground by adjusting the height. **There is no chin bar for the mini wheelchair, only larger models have one.**



Side View



Front View

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=4>

## **Wear, maintenance, liability and guarantee**

### **Maintenance**

With proper use and maintenance, the wheelchair is designed to last a lifetime. The wheels will wear out, but are easily replaced. If you need replacement parts, they may be purchased at [wheels4dogs.co.uk](http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk). In addition, the stickers on the side may fade or develop scratches, but this will not detract from the usefulness or resale value of the wheelchair. The wheelchair 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. Wheel for Pets, LLC, and its affiliates, agents, and distributors make no representation to the effectiveness or appropriateness of this product.

### **Guarantee**

Walkin' Wheels® is guaranteed by the manufacturer, Wheels for Pets, LLC, for five years from the date of purchase against defects in material or workmanship of the frame (with the exception of normal wear and tear of the harness and wheels). If something breaks, please let [wheels4dogs.co.uk](http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk) know and we will repair or replace the wheelchair at our option. Warranty is non-transferable.



## Return Policy

If you try the wheelchair and it does not work for your pet because of the design or fit, call us within 28 days from the day the wheelchair arrived. If we can't correct it, we will discuss a return and refund with you. If refurbishing is needed due to scratches or wear, this will reduce your refund.

## Optional items and accessories

### Walkin' Wheels Mini Front Vest

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

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=8>



### Walkin' Lift 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. This rear harness is great to use to assist your dog. The clip-in handles are used with this harness.



If you would like to purchase this harness, see link below:

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=7>

### The Drag Bag™

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=6>



The Walkin' Wheels Drag Bag is designed for pets to use in the home when they are not in their chairs.

Great for protecting the chest and limbs.

Prevents abrasions and sores that can be caused by scraping against carpets, floors, and rough surfaces. Keeps

bedding and blankets dry. Mesh panel for ventilation, Made of Nylon. Machine washable.

## Walkin' Pet Boots

High-quality, stay-on boots keep dogs from tracking dirt, mud, or snow into the house. Helps injured, disabled, or elderly pets that drag their paws and provides confidence on slippery surfaces like hardwood floors. Ideal for dogs with cuts, bruises or sensitive paws. These pet boots are comfortable, water resistant, and fashionable!

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=24>

See our range of full feature and other boots



## Walkin' Pet Boots and Stirrup Replacement Kit

### Kit

Combining the Walkin' Pet Boots with our stirrup adapter provides the most comfortable wheelchair experience for your pet.

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=25>



## Amputee Cover

The amputee cover is for pets with a smooth amputation that does not have a stump suitable for use of the full leg ring harness. The cover slips over the leg ring to close off one side for comfort.

<http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk/product.php?auto=20>





## Love the stories?

Take a look at the best-selling dog wheelchair book ever!

“Miracle Dogs, Adventures on Wheels”

by Sandy Johnson.

Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



**HandicappedPets.com**

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Stockist of Walkin' Wheels® range  
Wheelchairs,  
Harnesses  
Splints  
Boots  
Drag Bags, and much more

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Praa Sands  
Penzance  
TR20 9TF UK  
Tel: 0800 072 3697  
Mob: 07791 414757  
Email: [julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk](mailto:julia@wheels4dogs.co.uk)  
Website: [www.wheels4dogs.co.uk](http://www.wheels4dogs.co.uk)

This Manual is also available on our website and on CD