

Endless belt allows dog to run treadmill under his own power and set his own pace.



## Noiseless Treadmills Exercise Dogs

Have you got an overweight dog, or a show animal in training for an upcoming event? If so, you might like this simple noiseless treadmill.

Manufacturer Paul Colby says that with the Colby Noiseless Treadmill, "You can exercise your dog in the comfort and safety of your own home, in any weather, and away from cars and other dogs. They're the smoothest and easiest running of any unit sold. They're light weight, yet sturdily constructed and require small floor space."

According to Colby, both kennels and individual owners use the mill. For the kennel, where the owner may not be able to exercise many dogs often, it is much quicker and easier to use the mill than walking a dog. Breeding females will also come into heat more frequently when exercised, and produce healthier pups.

"We sell the mill to many dog owners whose animals need to lose weight to prepare for shows, or are working out for weight pulling contests, or are in climates where the weather often makes it difficult to get outside, or live in large cities where they'd rather exercise in their own home or apartment," he says.

He hand crafts the mills from pine and maple. Colby sells the treadmill completely assembled, with a harness attached for holding the dog in place while running.



Treadmill is hand crafted from pine and maple.

"There is an endless belt involved that responds to any movement a dog makes. The dog runs the treadmill under his own power, setting his own pace," he says.

Instructions on use, care and how to get your dog started on the treadmill are provided with each unit sold.

Treadmills for small dogs (up to 80 lbs.) cost \$475.00 and mills for large dogs (over 80 pounds) are priced at \$495.00. The units are shipped F.O.B. Newburyport, Mass.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Colby's Noiseless Treadmills, Paul F. Colby, 39 Pine Hill Road, Newburyport, Mass. 01950 ph 978 462-9810, E-mail: colby@colbypitbull.com., Website: www.colbypitbull.com/treadmil.html).

## Long-Wooled Sheep Produces "Golden" Fleece

Sheep breeders looking for the proverbial "golden fleece" may have found it in an ancient line of sheep, the Wensleydale. The old English breed produces wool fibers that are long and lustrous with the characteristics of Mohair and a 160-lb. lamb in 21 weeks.

There is only one problem. "No purebred Wensleydales exist in the U.S. today," says Zane Smith, one of only two or three importers of Wensleydale semen.

Existing in only limited numbers in the United Kingdom and Europe, the Wensleydale is a rare breed.

With the formation this past year of the North American Wensleydale Association (NAWA), a group of sheep breeders have dedicated themselves to promoting the breed's bloodline. They are using imported semen on Lincoln, Cotswold and English Leicester ewes to "breed up" the breed in the U.S. Currently there are only a few 75 percent second generation animals in the country.

"Once we get purebreds, we need to promote them as terminal sires in commercial flocks to compete with Suffolk and Hampshires," says Sherry Carlson, NAWA secretary and a breeder with 30 head of first generation Wensleydale/Lincolns. "We are seeing an awful lot of hybrid vigor, producing

healthy lambs growing at a very fast rate."

Developed originally as terminal sires in England, rams are big, reaching 350 lbs. or better while ewes mature at 250 lbs. Ewes are very prolific with a 25 percent lambing average. And a typical fleece has a staple length of 8 to 12 in. and a weight of 13 to 20 lbs.

Growing concern over the devastating disease scrapie (similar to BSE in cattle, but not proven transmissible to humans), may also feed demand for Wensleydale sheep. The long-wooled breed has the highest natural resistance to scrapie of all recognized sheep breeds in the United Kingdom. A buyer of a Wensleydale ram has a 92 percent chance that ram will be genetically resistant to the disease and that none of his crossbred progeny will be susceptible either.

Carlson reports first generation rams and wethers are selling for \$300 to \$500 in California due to the high demand for their wool from spinners. White Wensleydale wool is often back ordered, she says, due to demand from doll makers and others. Carlson has a waiting list for her flock's wool.

Few Wensleydale crossbred ewe lambs are available at this time due to the high interest among breeders in expanding their flocks,



Funk's home-built 3-wheel cycle has a seat on back for a small passenger and an extra set of pedals. "My 6-year-old grandson Charlie does most of the pedaling," says Funk.

## Grandpa's "Ride-Along" Cycles Big Hit At Parades

"It's a real crowd pleaser," says Ray Funk, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, about his home-built 3-wheel cycle with a smaller, 12-in. wheel between the rear wheels. The main driver sits on a comfortable padded seat, while the rear rider has a bicycle seat. A hinge mechanism transfers the rider's weight to the wheel to provide it with traction.

The rig rides on three 26-in. high wheels with a smaller, 12-in. wheel between the rear wheels. The main driver sits on a comfortable padded seat, while the rear rider has a bicycle seat. A hinge mechanism transfers the rider's weight to the wheel to provide it with traction.

"With two people pedaling it moves along quite easily," says Funk. "I drive it in parades with my 6-year-old grandson Charlie on back. He does most of the work so I don't have to pedal hard. We can both use the pedals to stop. There's a horn mounted on a cane behind the seat, with a timer connected to it that's activated by turning a knob. Charlie gets a big kick out of ringing the bell."

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Wensleydale sheep, an old English breed, produce wool fibers that are highly valued by craftsmen. It exists only in limited numbers in the United Kingdom and Europe.

and only 8 lines of breeding exist in the U.S. Carlson hopes that will expand once the situation improves in the U.K. At this time, available semen ranges from \$70-\$80 up to \$135 per straw, depending on the ram line and importer. Cross bred rams are available, but none have yet achieved registered status. Prospective breeders should study the association rules before buying and then study the pedigree of the animals carefully, keeping mindful of the limited genetics

available. "If we breed carefully and communicate, we can develop a good cross section of genetics," says Carlson.

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