

Scooter Adds Fun To Dog Walking

If you've got a dog, or dogs, that need a lot more exercise than they've been getting, you might want to think about getting a dog scooter.

While there are other dog carts on the market, Daphne Lewis says hers has a single shaft that goes over the dog's back and pulls upward on the harness.

"When you sit in the seat, the harness lifts off the dog's back so he's pulling with his sternum and is light on his feet," says Lewis.

Because of the design, even 40 to 50-lb. dogs that love to run can pull the carts. The reinforced harnesses are well padded for comfort, and the driver has reins for control.

Lewis started running dog-pulled scooters several years ago when she owned a smart Rottweiler that "needed something to



Dog cart has a single shaft that goes over dog's back and pulls upward on harness.



do". She adapted a thrift store scooter, then discovered there were dog scooters on the market and that people race with them. "It's like skijouring on wheels," she says. Lewis created a company, DogScooter, located in Washington, selling scooters online.

"The selling point is that it's a great way to exercise your dogs," Lewis says. "The dogs are much calmer after they get half an hour or hour of running."

She carries single and double passenger sulkies and models with and without brakes.

On-the-ground training is important prior to hooking up the dog to the sulky, using the same kinds of commands dog mushers use. The www.dogscooter.com website includes several videos showing dogs pulling scooters and sulkies, including "Dog Scootering 101."

Sulkies weigh less than 40 lbs. and can be ordered through the website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daphne Lewis, 2524 S. 317th no. 201, Federal Way, Wash. 98003 (ph 206 304-7390; daphne@chalosulky.com; www.dogscooter.com).



Caster wheel under front end follows garden terrain. Shroud can be removed quickly by pulling two bolts.

Late Season Rototilling

"I'm a cabinet maker so I used wood to make this shroud for my roto tiller to work through late season crops," says Jesse Longenecker, Rossville, Ind. "I only till deep enough to break the crust and take out small weeds.

"The front curve is made from 3 pieces of 1/8-in. birch, bent to shape. The straight sides are 1/2-in. plywood. I sprayed finish on it to make it hold up to moisture and so it would more easily slide through foliage.

"The most important detail is that the shroud has a swivel caster under the front curved nose. It holds the shroud up 2 in. above the ground. If the ground is soft, it will settle down lower to the ground or even slide on the ground with no problem.

"The back end of the shroud attaches loosely with two 5/16-in. bolts to the back tiller guard. This allows the tiller to pivot up and down and the front of the shroud to stay close to the ground. I had to cut away some wood on the right side by the exhaust for when I lift up the back of the tiller at the end of the garden.

"I leave the 5/16-in. bolts bolted to the shroud and use 5/16-in. thumb nuts inside the tiller guard to hold it on. It only takes a minute to put the shroud on or off."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jesse Longenecker, 7395 N County Rd 300W, Rossville, Ind. 46065 (ph 765 379-3734).