

Carts Give Mobility To Disabled Dogs



Sometimes animals have disabilities that prevent them from walking. A new invention -- a cart with wheels -- has given back mobility to some of those animals.

Three of those carts are being used to help three special Chihuahua puppies get around. The puppies -- Venus, Carmen, and Pablo -- were born last spring without front legs. But now they have been fitted at a New York animal shelter with the two-wheeled carts. Straps hold the carts in place on the puppies' bodies, and soft padding makes them comfortable for the dogs to wear. Now the puppies can "walk" like other dogs. Shelter workers say the puppies are now "equipped with front-wheel drive."

The puppies use the carts for about ten minutes at a time. As time passes, they will be able to stay in them longer. When they are not wearing their carts, they get around by hopping on their back legs. Hopping like that can cause stress to their backs, so the carts offer a welcome rest for the puppies' backs.

Venus, Pablo, and Carmen got more than their mobility at the New York shelter. In addition, a worker there has adopted all three dogs and given them a good home.

NEWS WORD BOX

disability mobility
prevent comfortable
Chihuahua equipped

The carts that the three puppies wear were made by a company in Massachusetts. The company was started when its owner built a cart for his own dog. People saw the cart and asked the man to build carts for their pets, too.

READ MORE ABOUT DOG CARTS

The book *How Willy Got His Wheels* is about another dog that could not use his back legs. Now a cart enables Willy to get around. Willy visits schools and hospitals to show others that having a disability does not have to slow you down.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

There is an old saying: "*Necessity is the mother of invention.*" What does that saying mean to you? How does that saying relate to the story of Venus, Pablo, and Carmen?