

The Great Outdoors

Cool products for our (big) backyards

As the winter months approach, it's time to start thinking about keeping warm and snug. Leaving a window open for your cat to enter and exit is a sure way to increase those electricity bills. Pet doors are practical in the cooler months but not all of us have appropriate doors in which to install standard cat flaps or dog doors. If you rent you'll find it almost impossible to have the convenience of a pet door. But we've found a solution in this removable patio door. No need to call a tradesperson to install this as you can fit it yourself in around the time it takes to brew a cuppa.



The Patio Door

The doors come in small, medium, large and extra large and are constructed out of high quality aluminium and have draft stoppers for a watertight seal. They fit left or right hand doors and come in a variety of colours.

The Sash Window pet door is available in three widths and flaps come in four sizes. Like the Patio Door, the flaps are made from a soft flexible, transparent vinyl. Both variations are lockable for security and can be removed just as quickly as installed.



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The Scarecrow

If you've just planted the spring bulbs, you'll try to ensure that no household critter will be digging up the garden. It's a motion-activated sprinkler that releases a short, startling burst of water when it detects animals. The sudden shot of water, noise and movement scares animals away. It has a 105 degree detection area and the sensitivity dial is adjustable. The Scarecrow can also deter birds from stealing fish from outdoor ponds. Unlike a regular sprinkler, the Scarecrow only uses 2 cups of water at each burst.



The Catstop

The CatStop is an ultra-sonic device that emits a high decibel alarm that you won't hear but a cat intruder will. It runs for up to nine months on one standard 9 volt battery. CatStop protects about 6 metres in front of the unit and in an 80 degree arc. Like the Scarecrow, the CatStop is motion activated and only operates when movement is detected.



The Skamper Ramp

Too many drowning casualties occur in our backyard pools and pets now have an escape route in the form of the Skamper-Ramp. It's made from 8mm chemical and UV resistant polypropylene that the manufacturers say will last over five years. It comes complete with nylon rope, nuts, bolts and wing straps and is available in two sizes. The smaller size will accommodate animals that weigh under 20 kilos and the larger size can support an animal just over 40 kilos.



The Black Dog Pack and the Palisades Pack

Back Packs for your Dog. Hiking, outdoorsy dogs will enjoy wearing the Palisades Pack II. It has saddlebags with compartments to store extra leads, treats, poo bags, and supplies. The saddlebags are removable for easy packing and unpacking. There is a hydration system that is much like what we see in cask wine bladders.

The pack is made of sturdy nylon with reflective safety strips. An internal compression strap system keeps loads high and tight for snag free navigation and an improved center of gravity adds to a dog's overall mobility. As always we would advise that you should not overload the pack and special consideration should be made for the length of time this is worn so that no undue pressure is exerted on joints.

A less expensive, homegrown, dog pack is made by Australian dog accessory company, Black Dog. With less features than the Palisades, it still stores the basics for a long walk or dog picnic. The Black Dog pack is around \$42.00 for the small size and \$50.00 for the larger option.

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The WalkyDog

Cycling with your dog can prove to be tricky especially with long leads.

The WalkyDog easily attaches to your saddle bar of the bike and has a flexible lead attachment. It allows the rider the convenience of not having to hold a lead as you both get some exercise.

The WalkyLock

From the same manufacturers comes the WalkyLock that is an attachment for the hatch door of your vehicle. It allows your furry mate to be secure in your vehicle with fresh air. It's the perfect solution when you have to leave your dog inside a car for a short period of time.



Black Dog accessories www.blackdog.net.au ph: (03) 9762 4782
Price range: sm \$41.15; reg \$49.98

WalkyDog bike accessory www.walkydogusa.com
USD\$39.95 + shipping or www.petpassion.com.au or AUD\$79.95 + shipping

WalkyLock www.walkydogusa.com USD\$14.99 + shipping



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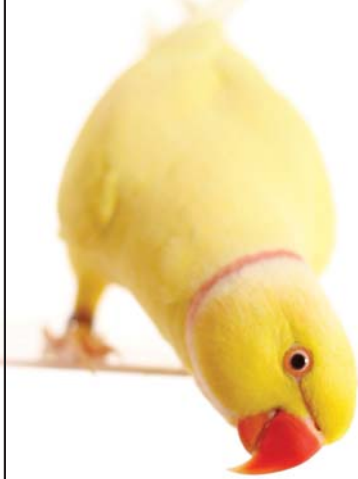
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back cover.

The Patio Pet Door and Sash Window Pet Door available from Pig In Mud 1300 783 839
www.piginmud.com.au Price range: \$280-380 and \$250-\$320 respectively.

Scarecrow found in selected garden and pet stores rrp \$129.00 + shipping 1800 786 608

CatStop found in selected garden and pet stores rrp \$89.00 1800 786 608

Skamper-Ramp \$89.00; large \$109.00 ph: 9450 0681

Palisades Pack II made by Ruffwear www.ruffwear.com
Price range: US\$79.95 - \$94.95