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## **BLUE DOG DESIGNS ANNOUNCES NEW HELP ‘EM UP™ HARNESS FOR SMALL DOGS**

### *New Harness Accommodates Spinal Cord Issues Prevalent in Dogs 10-30 lbs*

DENVER, COLO, (February 14, 2013) – Blue Dog Designs has introduced a new version of its “The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness” to specifically accommodate smaller breed dogs and their unique spine issues.

Launched in 2008, The Help ‘Em Up Harness is the first full-body dog lifting harness system featuring the patented “Hip Lift” to assist owners with aging or injured dogs to live a more active life. The harness was originally developed for dogs where hip dysplasia or muscle loss had decreased their mobility and physical strength for every day functions. Today the harness is widely used by veterinarians as a mobility device to assist dogs rehabilitating after surgery or recovering from injuries. The smaller harness was created in direct response to veterinarian requests for assistance for small dogs in this manner.

“The Help ‘Em Up Harness now addresses an even greater number of owner challenges,” said president of Blue Dog Designs and creator of the Help ‘Em Up Harness Cary Zimmerman. “Following our initial launch we received an outpouring of support from dog owners who have been looking for something just like this harness to assist their dogs. And with input from veterinarians, now smaller breeds can also have much-needed help from our harness like the larger breeds, especially after surgery.”

Unlike the larger-sized harness, the small Help ‘Em Up™ Harness has two connector straps along each side of the back leaving the top of the spine exposed to accommodate recovery from spinal cord issues that can be prevalent in small-breed dogs. Straps on the

small harness are made of Velcro for easy adjustment with this size. All Help ‘Em Up Harnesses feature a chest, shoulder and hip-lift harness system that is padded, lightweight and comfortable to wear for dogs with muscle and joint disease. It also helps dogs suffering from muscle atrophy, arthritis, hip dysplasia, myelopathy, or loss of power in their hips and hind legs from aging or injury.

The new small-breed Help ‘Em Up™ Harness comes in black with red and gray accents and is ideal for breeds including Dachshunds, Shih Tzus, Terriers, Toy Poodles and other smaller, short breed types.

The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness is designed to distribute weight over the large surfaces of the chest and hind quarters. Unlike other devices, The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness can be worn comfortably many hours a day. Ad hoc solutions like towels, leashes or slings must be assembled with each use. Owners with dogs suffering from cataracts or that are sight impaired use the harness as a guide to help steer them around obstacles and provide balance and safety.

### **About Blue Dog Designs**

Blue Dog Designs was launched in 2008 with the original The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness, the first-ever full body lifting harness for dogs that can be worn for extended periods.

Ergonomically designed with soft comfortable padding and waterproof Neoprene, the harness has elevated handles for lifting and stabilizing, is adjustable to fit any size dog and machine washable. The harness is used by veterinarians post-surgery, but also helps owners lift aging dogs up off the floor, up and down the stairs, or in and out of cars or boats.

For more information and a free brochure on The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness, visit

[www.helpemup.com](http://www.helpemup.com)

### **Editor’s Note:**

- A low-res photo of “The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness” is embedded in this press release.
- Digital high-res photos of “The Help ‘Em Up™ Harness” featuring the “Hip Lift” are available via request.

