

GETTING YOUR DOG GOING:

- put the harness on and adjust so that there is just a little slack (one finger width) on the strap around the chest just behind the front legs. Then adjust the front padded strap enough so as to not pull the chest strap forward digging into the back of the front legs.

These harnesses are sized a bit small so that the padded chest strap rides high at the top of the shoulder/base of the neck so as to not restrict full leg extension. If your harness is riding down on the top of the leg either exchange it for the smaller size or shorten (cut & sew or pinch & bolt or cut & add plastic slider & or buckle) the 4 short vertical straps that the padded strap hangs from.

- Adjust the outrigger bar vertically so there is 4"-5" above the dogs back. And adjust the harness connections vertically so they are at the same level as the big D-rings on the harness.

Now get some treats ready! I give my dog a treat every time I hook him into the system.

- Call your dog over and have them stand/sit/hang out next to the scooter and under the outrigger bar. This may take 5-15 minutes.

- Walk your dog under the outrigger bar without hooking him in yet. I recommend having a friend to help you here, by walking the scooter and or holding the dog in position. Try to hold the dog so as to not contact the scooter or outrigger bar. You can hold the harness & the top of the outrigger bar with the same hand in order to keep him centered. This should take 5-10 minutes.

Avoid sharp turns at this early stage, use big wide arcs.

- Now pick up the pace and jog with the dog & scooter (without hooking the dog up yet) Spend 5-10 minutes here.

- Now your ready to hook the dog into the system. Now walk the scooter/dog again. Have your buddy continue to keep a hand on the dog in case the dog gets spooked and thrashes. Keep the dog focused on going forward. If the dog knows he has a way to move he won't feel so claustrophobic by the side to side restriction. This should take another 5-10 minutes.

- Now pick up the pace and jog. After 5-10 minutes of success here "sneak" some load- your weight- onto the scooter by reducing your kicking.

Take your time with this orientation sequence- it does not need to occur all at one session but from my experience most confident, young dogs do get going in a single session. If the dog is dramatically spooked- stop- go back to a stage where you had success - and or pick up at a later time. Associate this activity with fun for the dog.