

## **Canine Swimming Aid and Water Safety Device**

### **Background**

Current canine water safety devices and buoyancy aids are in the form of a life vest similar to those used for human water safety. In human life jackets the buoyancy is placed around the neck and in front of the chest which provides good buoyancy when the user floats on their back. Dogs however do not naturally adopt this position in the water and having the buoyancy aspect of current devices located on the dogs back does not specifically keep their heads and subsequently their breathing organs free of the water. Current devices also incorporate straps which go around the animals body and can become entangled with unseen debris under the water such as branches or manmade objects such as shopping trolleys, bicycles etc.

FIG.1 is a pictorial view of device closed

FIG.2 is a pictorial view of device open

FIG.3 is a rear elevation of device open

FIG.4 is a plan view of device open

FIG.5 is a picture of the device shown on a small dog

FIG.6 is a picture of the device shown on a large dog

**Description**

The device aids canine safety in waterways by providing a good degree of buoyancy to the animals head thereby keeping the nose and mouth clear of the water and free to breathe  
5 even if the animal becomes tired. The device is in the form of a thick buoyant collar as seen in FIG.1 and FIG.2 which is similar to a lifebuoy but which can be opened and then closed firm around the animals neck so that it cannot slip off as seen in FIG.5 and FIG.6.

10 The device is constructed from highly buoyant material such as but not limited to dense styrofoam as seen in FIG.1 (1) and FIG.2 (1). The device is housed within strong nylon, canvas or other strong fabric straps as seen in FIG.1 (3) and  
15 FIG.2 (3) or complete nylon or fabric cover.

A strong plastic side release buckle as seen in FIG.1 (2) and FIG.2 (2) or other secure fastening mechanism is used for effortless fixing to or removing from the animal.

20 The device is constructed from two buoyant half rings as seen in FIG.4 held together by strong textile straps and secured via a strong fastening mechanism.

25 There are no straps around the dogs body as seen in FIG.5 and FIG.6 which may become caught on water born debris or entangle the dogs legs.

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**Claims**

1. A water safety device arranged to fit around the neck of a dog and having sufficient buoyancy (1) to keep a dogs head clear of water.

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2. A water safety device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the buoyancy (1) is a solid mass of buoyant material.

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3. A water safety device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the device is in two buoyant halves (FIG.4) connected via a flexible fabric hinge (FIG.4) and secured via a secure fastening mechanism (2) at the opposite side.

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4. A water safety device as claimed in claim 3 wherein once secured to the dog via the fastening mechanism (2) it cannot slip off as the hole for the dogs neck is smaller than the (5) (6) dogs head.

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**Abstract**

The device (FIG.1) is a swimming aid and water safety device and is suitable for most breeds of dogs from terriers to german shepherds. The device is particularly beneficial for dogs which may be missing a front or rear leg. Constructed from dense buoyant material (1) and being fixed around the dogs neck via a secure fastening mechanism (2) keeps the animals head and consequently its nose and mouth clear of the water allowing the animal to breathe easily even when tired.

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As the hole for the animals neck is smaller than the animals head when the device is fastened properly (FIG.5) and (FIG.6) it cannot slip off in the water. Unlike current canine water safety vest designs this device has no straps around the dogs body which may become entangled with seen or unseen debris in waterways.

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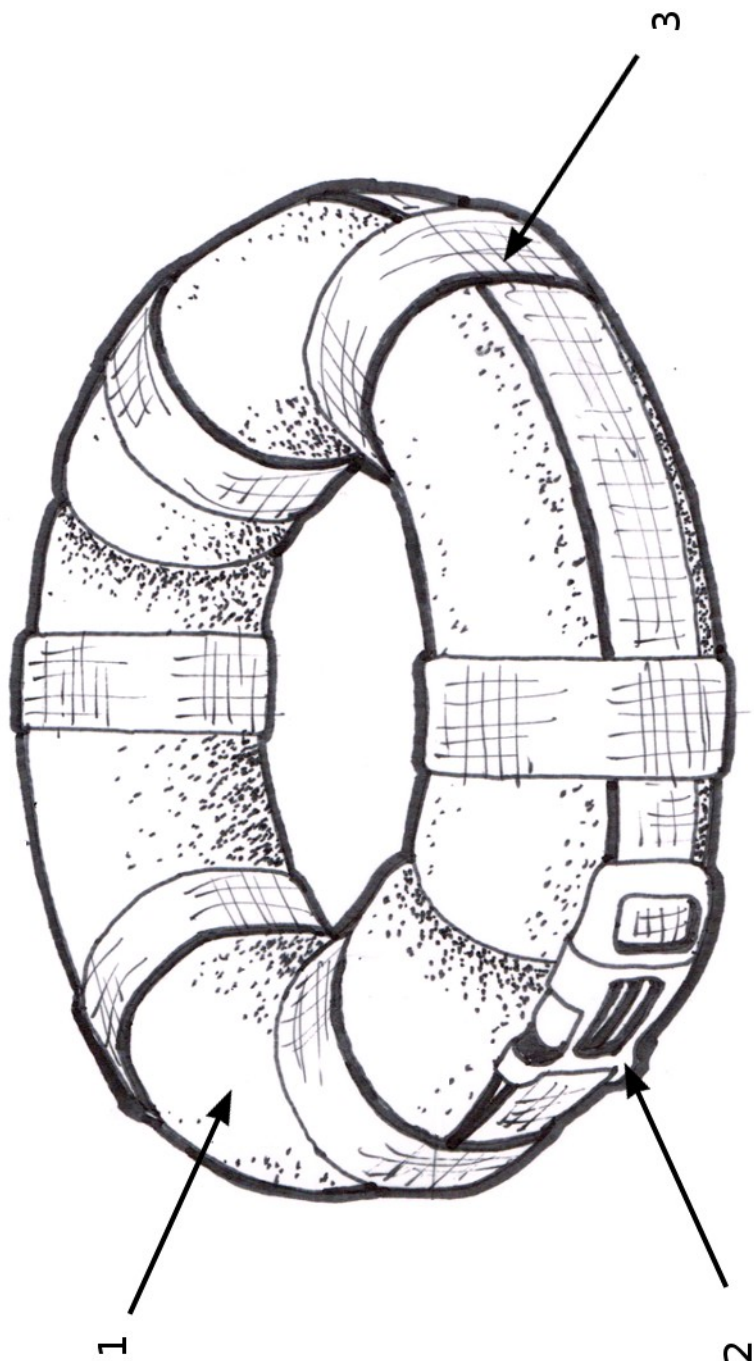


FIG. 1

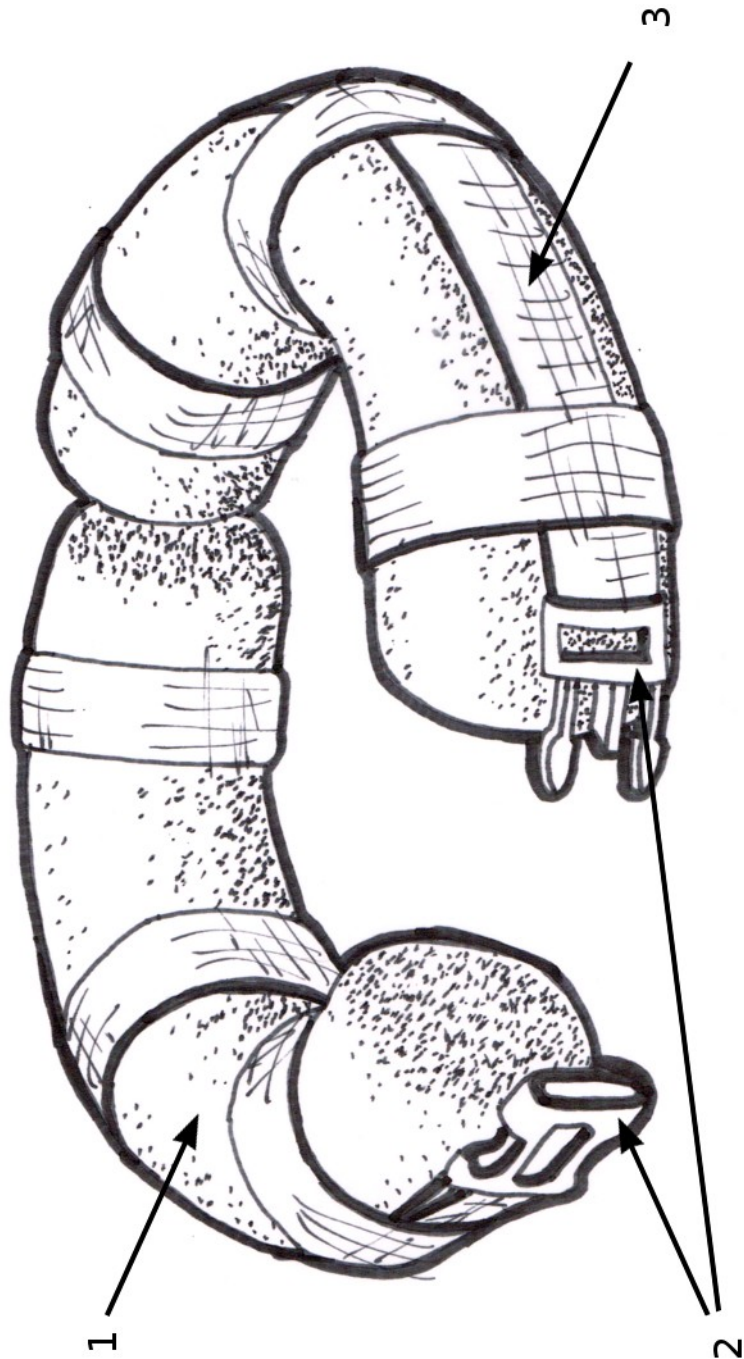


FIG. 2

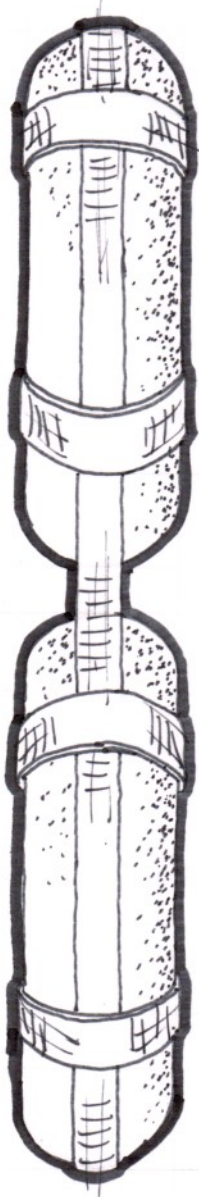


FIG. 3

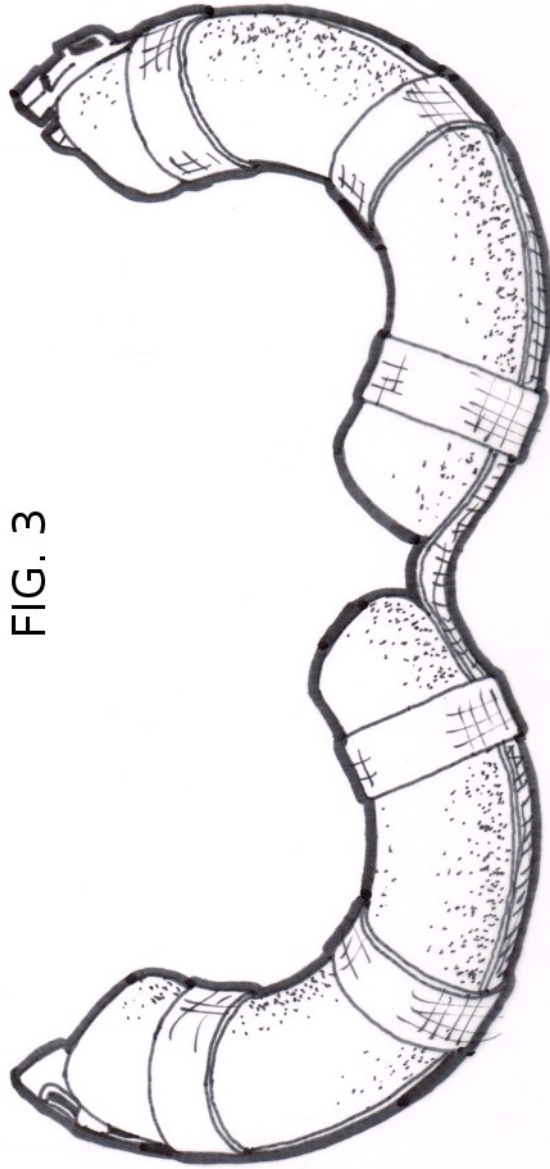


FIG. 4



FIG. 5

FIG. 6