

## Dog Walking Carts Catching On Fast

If you've got a dog that needs more exercise, and you're the kind of person who likes to entertain your neighbors, the growing "sport" of dog carting may be for you.

Manufacturers of dog-pulled carts say business is booming. R.J. Walsh and Sons have been making harness racing carts for horses for 40 years. A few years ago the company discovered there's a market for dog carts, too. The company now makes a variety of carts to fit all kinds of dogs.

Darlette Ratschan, Santa Clarita, Calif., who has used a Walsh cart, has been dog carting for more than two years. She says some people like carts they can ride in. Others want to walk alongside.

Unlike traditional double shaft carts, which hang from the sides of a harness, Walsh's dorsal hitch extends up and over the back of the animal to a point just behind the front shoulders where it attaches to the harness. The adjustable sulky seat and footrests are carefully balanced over the wheels to produce a slight negative pressure on the animal.

"The dorsal hitch is easier on the dog, and he isn't restricted as he is in a straight shaft cart," explains Ratschan. "If another dog rushes up, your dog can turn to meet it. Also, your dog doesn't get knocked over sideways if the cart turns over."

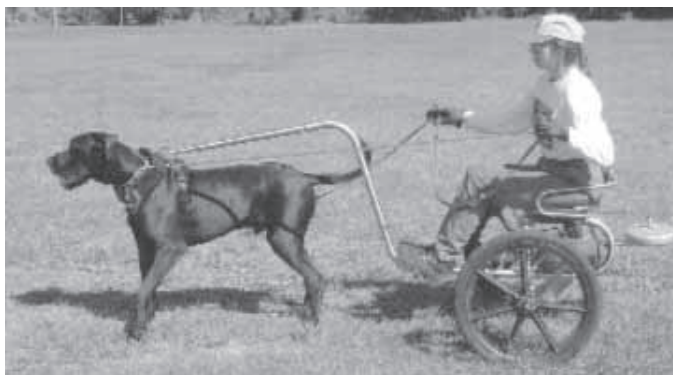
Currently, Walsh makes the Millennium Mini and the City Mini. Both are priced at \$651 (U.S.) plus \$180 shipping. The City Mini is slightly smaller with a narrower wheelbase of the confines of city spaces. The sulkies feature a stainless steel chassis, 24-in. reinforced nylon wheels with industrial ball bearings, steel axles and springs, pneumatic tires, a molded plastic seat and Ikon shock absorbers. Extras include disc brakes, a speedometer, 26- and 28-in. steel-spoked wheels and padded seats.

A multiple hitch for up to three dogs is available.

Ratschan has developed her own harness for the Walsh sulkies, which she makes and sells for \$90 through her company TZLites.

"It is like a mini bareback pad for a horse with padding for the hitch and big wide webbing for the harness," she says. "The dogs wear reins which attach either to a halter or to a dual ring collar."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R.J. Walsh & Son P/L, Box 229, Padstow NSW 2211 Australia (ph 612 9707-3411 fax 612 9707-3629 ; email: jimw@comcen.com.au; website: www.rjwalsh.com.au/mini) or Darlette Ratschan (ph 661 255-2657; email: tzlites@aol.com; website: http://hometown.aol.com/tzrites/tzrites1.html).



Manufacturers of dog-pulled carts say business is booming.



Cart's dorsal hitch extends up and over back of animal to a point just behind the front shoulders, where it attaches to harness.



"It looks just like the 440 articulated steering tractor that Steiger made for Allis Chalmers back in the late 1960's," says Marvel Nelson about his 1/3-scale model.

## Articulated Tractor Patterned After An Allis Chalmers 440

Marvel Nelson's little articulated 4-WD Allis Chalmers is a head turner.

"It looks just like the 440 articulated steering tractor that Steiger made for Allis Chalmers back in the late 1960's," says Nelson about his 1/3-scale model.

Although Nelson just built the tractor a couple of years ago, he had been thinking about doing it for two decades.

"I collected most of the parts to build this tractor about 20 years ago," says the retired Mineral Point, Wisconsin, farmer. "What I needed was something to pull firewood out of the timber. It needed a low center of gravity and good traction. Because I was busy with farming, it just never got done."

The drive axles are from two 1-ton Chevrolet trucks with vacuum 2-speed rear ends. The engine is a Chevy 6-cylinder 292. He used an automatic transmission and transfer case from a 3/4-ton Chevy 4-WD pickup. The steering console, grill and radiator were salvaged from a 190-XT Allis. He put the two truck axles together so they pivot in the cen-

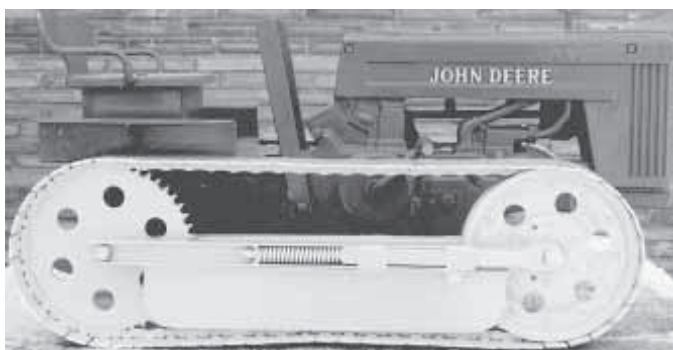
ter and used a hydraulic cylinder mounted on one side of the frame to steer. A hydraulic pump mounted on the motor provides power for the steering.

The tractor also features hydraulic brakes. And with the automatic transmission and transfer case combined with the two-speed axles, he has 12 forward gears and four in reverse. "The slowest speed is between 1 and 2 mph, and top speed is nearly 70 mph," he notes.

Once he had the tractor together, he had a new hood, fenders and body sheet metal shaped by a local metal shop.

The 1/3-scale 440 has been at many other shows and parades. But it hasn't been out into the timber to drag out firewood. "That's just not going to happen," Nelson says. "I don't want it dented or scratched."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvel Nelson, 592 County Hwy. U, Mineral Point, Wis. 53565 (ph 608 967-2256; email: mbnlsn@chorus.net).



Frank Miller's 1/4-scale tracked tractor is designed to look like a Deere 420 tracked model. Driver turns the pedals to make the tractor go forward or backward.

## He Put Tracks On A Pedal Tractor

"I built it for my grand kids," says Frank Miller, Mott, N. Dak., about the 1/4-scale Deere tracked tractor that he built out of an old Deere pedal tractor.

The tracked tractor is designed to look like a Deere 420 model, which was originally made in the 1950's. The driver turns the pedals to make the tractor go forward or backward. He pulls on a pair of levers to turn left or right.

Miller started with an old beat-up Deere 60 pedal tractor that was given to him. "The casting was broken in several places and the rear axle housings were shot. There wasn't anything I could do to convert it back into a working pedal tractor," says Miller.

He removed all the wheels and built new rear axle housings, then replaced the wheels with large sprockets. The rear drive sprockets are blank sprockets that he purchased from a hardware store, while the front sprockets came off a Deere combine. He drilled holes into all the sprockets to make them look authentic. The pedals chain-drive a pair of shafts that connect to the rear sprockets.

To make the track, Miller mounted no. 40 roller chain around both sets of sprockets, then welded a series of flat steel cleats onto the chain. The cleats measure 1 in. wide by 4 in. long and are 1/8 in. thick. One cleat is



To make the track, Miller mounted no. 40 roller chain around both sets of sprockets, then welded a series of flat steel cleats onto the chain. One cleat is welded onto each chain link.

welded onto each chain link.

"The track carriers are spring-loaded so the track stays snug all the time. However, the tractor is fairly heavy and there's a lot of track area to cause friction. As a result, my grand kids can pedal the tractor forward or backward, but they don't have enough power to make it turn," notes Mott.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank L. Miller Farms, 307 Iowa Ave., Mott, N. Dak. 58646 (ph 701 824-2637).