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What are dog capes used for?

These [ID Cape dog vests](#) were designed by Wolf Packs in the mid-1980's to identify the Service Dogs trained by Canine Companions For Independence. Since then they have been used by many of the major Assistance Dog training organizations. Hundreds of thousands of Wolf Packs' vests have been used by working dogs worldwide. These high-quality American made products are used daily by trained Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Search and Rescue Dogs, and many other types of working dogs. They are dogs with a job - not simply family pets. The public instantly recognizes dogs wearing these ID Capes as a dog at work. To convey specific messages, different [patch combinations](#) can be sewn to the ID Cape after purchase, or your local embroidery company can sew custom lettering to the item.

What makes these ID Capes special?

These capes are made with pride in the USA by Wolf Packs, the leader in the industry. The high performance materials used to make these products have been proven over decades of use. Uncompromising attention to detail during construction leads to superior durability. We often hear of [ID Capes](#) being handed down to successor working companion animals many years after they were first put into service.

Which high performance materials are used to make ID Capes?

Wherever possible American made materials from time tested manufacturers are used for the construction of [ID Capes](#). These include domestically manufactured DuPont 1000D Cordura fabric, American made Scotchlite 3M reflective tape, and high quality domestic thread. Large, easy to grab, nearly silent rubber zipper pull tabs are made especially for these items. The unique rubber zipper tabs provide an often necessary larger surface grip, allowing easier access to the pocket contents. Unlike other companies, Wolf Packs does not use inexpensive imported materials because they do not pass their rigorous durability testing.

Where are these ID Capes made?

The [ID Capes](#) we sell are made by Wolf Packs. They are proudly produced in the USA, specifically in Oregon. They are sewn by talented individuals who have been sewing them for decades. Multiple American families are supported through your purchase of these products.

What types of working dogs wear ID Capes?

Although most commonly used by Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, and Animal Assisted Therapy Dogs, these ID Capes are also worn by dogs with diverse roles such as Emotional Support Dogs, Drug Detection Dogs, Search and Rescue Dogs, Autism Service Dogs, Police K-9 Units, Ranger Dogs (patrol backcountry), and Golf Course Dogs (chase geese off the greens). Hunters often outfit their dogs with orange ID Capes for safety, and a lot of hiking dogs also wear orange which makes them more visible (safer) during hunting season.

Why isn't there a squeeze-open buckle on the front strap?

Because they are bulky and unnecessary. The ID Cape was designed to slip easily over a dog's head, just like a collar. Once it is adjusted for your dog, you simply slide the it onto your dog and buckle the belly strap. The front strap is comfortable for daily wear because the adjustable 3-bar slide on the front strap is light in weight and minimally bulky.

Why do the zippers close toward the tail?

The zippers close toward the dog's tail because dogs move in the opposite direction. As a dog walks he or she often brushes against obstacles such as people, doors frames, furniture, and trees. If the zipper sliders are already at the back of the ID Cape, the pocket will remain closed. Conversely, if the zipper sliders opened toward the dog's tail, it would be possible for the contents in the pocket to fall out and be lost.

How do I determine the correct size to order?

Measure your dog around the chest, right behind their elbows. Use a fabric measuring tape or a string to get an accurate measurement. Then refer to the [sizing instructions](#) to ensure you order the correct size. For growing puppies, we recommend selecting a size that allows for growth.

What is a Service Dog or Service Animal?

The [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (revised 2010) defines a Service Animal as follows:

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Can animals other than dogs wear ID Capes?

Absolutely! They have been worn by many animal species used for therapeutic purposes as well as those assisting people with disabilities. We know of cats, rabbits, pigs, and goats outfitted with [ID Capes](#), and larger animals such as miniature horses that use our patches. We offer "Therapy Animal" and "Service Animal" patches to identify these working partners.

Are the products you sell covered by a warranty?

All of the products we sell are manufactured by Wolf Packs. They are guaranteed to be free of defects in both workmanship and materials. If at any time a product should prove defective through the course of normal use, please contact us to arrange a return. If it qualifies under the warranty, the item will then be repaired or replaced (our option) free of charge. If the failure is due to damage or general wear and tear, we will be happy to repair it for a nominal fee.

Wear and tear such as lost buckles or chew damage from dogs are not covered.

What is the recommended way to attach patches to gear?

We recommend sewing patches to the vests. The center section of ID Capes is wide enough to fit a round patch or several rocker tabs. A regular sewing machine can be used to sew straight through this area. The side pockets require patches be hand sewn (or tacked) because sewing through all the layers would make the pocket unusable. Some customers have reported temporary success using Rhino Glue instead of sewing, but we have no experience with this product.

How should I position patches on an ID Cape?

The ID Cape can hold patches in many different configurations. Some people sew them to the top-center section. Others prefer to have that area embroidered locally while hand sewing patches on to the pockets. The patches can be nested together (round with rocker tabs) to create specific messages.

How do I find a Service Dog trainer?

There are many service dog training organizations throughout the world. Our listing of [trainers](#) might help you find a resource in your area.

Why does my credit card statement show my purchase is from Wolf Packs?

Dog Capes is a branch of Wolf Packs. This website focuses on the dog vests and related patches they produce for working dogs. Wolf Packs' focus is on the production of gear, and the marketing of their durable line of hiking backpacks. The equipment offered here is specialized, and it is available through this website.
