

GOLPP Water vest by Dr Ruth Barthel

Purchase dog life jacket to size

Purchase human cheap boating life jacket to size

¼ yard of heavy cotton fabric (or neoprene fabric if your machine can sew it)

Large safety pins (6)

1. Check the boat vest for 'twisting.'

Determine if the boat vest is too thick for twisting at the final step of 7 and 8. I used an adult boat vest and opened the seam at C to remove two sheets. Restitch the seam C.

2. Sew 'fabric rectangle' to belly flap.

The belly flap of most dog jackets is made of neoprene, which is very thick. I have a regular sewing machine which cannot sew the thickness of two neoprene fabrics, so I used cotton for the 'fabric rectangle.' If you use cotton, stitch all edges to prevent raveling of fabric.

Length of 'fabric rectangle' is the distance between the dog vest straps. Width is about 1.5 to 2 inches. The width should be as small as possible, but wide enough that you can maneuver the vests when stitching with the sewing machine.

Stitch one long side of rectangle to belly flap. Loose edge is noted as 'X' on view 4.

3. Sew edge 'X' of fabric rectangle to boat vest edge 'A.'

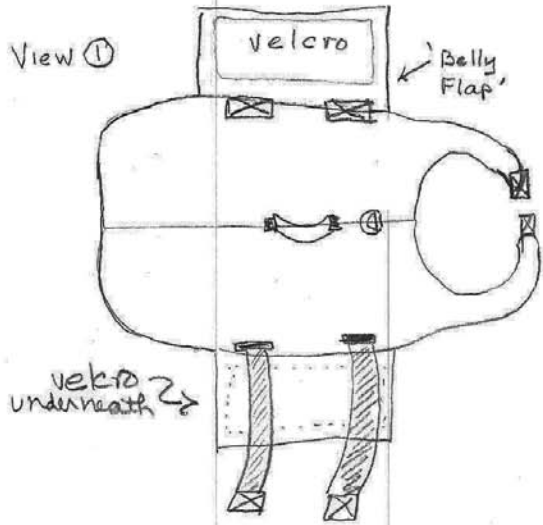
Note that the boat vest underside is 'up' and thus its topside is facing the dog vest topside. See view 5.

First, use safety pins to hold fabric rectangle to edge A. The placement onto the boat vest edge will depend on the length of your dog's neck and nose. Make a trial pinning, and then put the vests on your dog. Flip up the boat vest edges as in view 8 and use the strap of the boat vest to hold it in place. Now check where 'D' edge is. You want it to hold his nose up: his head will be resting on this area (what would be the 'neck' of the life jacket for people). Now try it out in the water and adjust. If the platform is too close to the dog's neck, his nose will be able to angle down to the water easily. You don't want that. If the platform is too far away from the dog's neck, he'll be able to tuck his head down and flip the platform over his head.

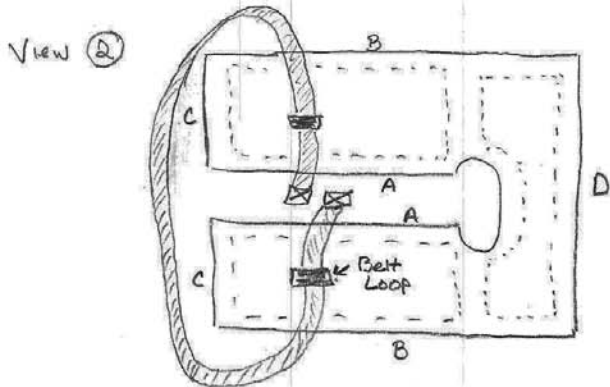
Once adjusted, stitch edge X of fabric rectangle to edge A of boat vest. Now you will have something that looks like view 6.

4. Flip up edge B so that the underside of the boat vest is now touching the topside of the dog vest. This will make a twist in the boat vest fabric. The twist will help keep the platform for your dog's head steady. Until the dog is in the water, this platform will just flop down (see photo). Safety pin the edge B of boat vest to side of dog vest. Again, try it out in the water to see if you need to adjust the pins.

The pins can stay as your method of fixation, or you can take it to a cobbler or upholsterer for stitching. Replace pins as needed (they will start to rust).

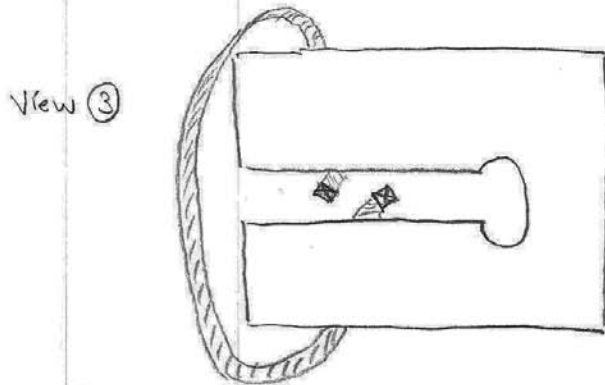


Dog Vest



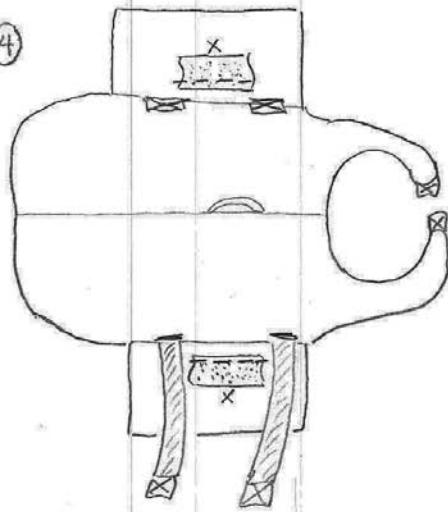
Dotted line shows flotation sheets inside vest.

Boating Vest
Top Side



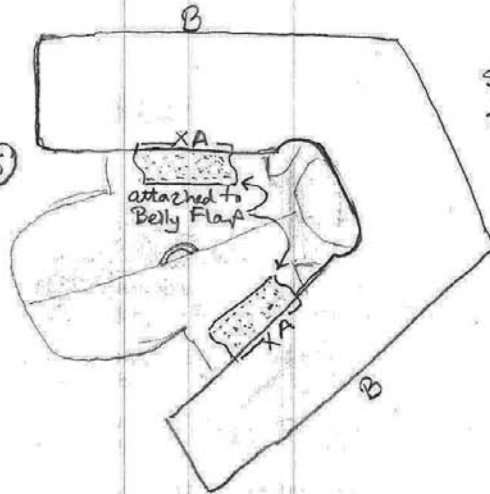
Underside of
Boat Vest

View (4)



Fabric Rectangle
← stitching line on Belly Flap

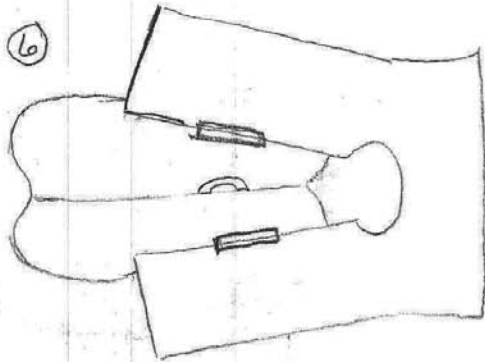
View (5)



Sew Edge X of fabric to Edge A of boat vest

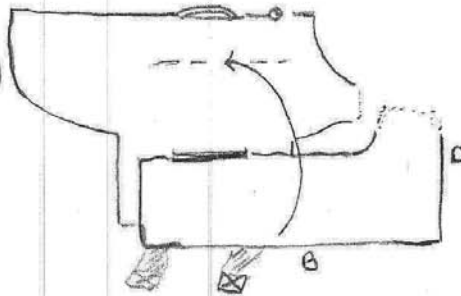
* Belt Loop of boat vest not visible, you are seeing 'underside' of boat vest & topside of dog vest

View ⑥



View looking
down on vests

View ⑦



Flip edge B
up to dog vest

