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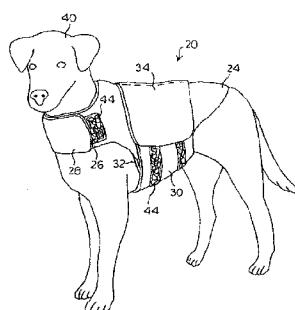
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FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: A garment (20) to reduce an animal's anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof. The garment may include a central portion (24), flaps (30, 32) extending from opposite sides of the central portion, and, in some cases, a cinching member (34) that extends from a central area of the central portion. The flaps may be fastened together around the chest and stomach of the animal, and the cinching member may be fastened to the central portion or one or more flaps to tighten the garment further, applying pressure to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, or over-excitement. Straps (26, 28) may be provided to secure the garment to the animal's neck. One material that may be used in making the garment is a fabric made of 55% cotton, 35% polyester, and 10% spandex. The animal may generally be any animal with four legs, for example, a dog or cat, or two arms and two legs, for example, a monkey.

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PRESSURE-APPLYING GARMENT FOR ANIMALS

Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/218,620, filed June 19, 2009, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Background

[0001a] The following discussion of the background to the invention is intended to facilitate an understanding of the invention. However, it should be appreciated that the discussion is not an acknowledgement or admission that any of the material referred to was published, known or part of the common general knowledge as at the priority date of the application.

[0001b] Where the terms “comprise”, “comprises”, “comprised” or “comprising” are used in this specification (including the claims) they are to be interpreted as specifying the presence of the stated features, integers, steps or components, but not precluding the presence of one or more other features, integers, steps or components, or group thereto.

[0002] Animals may suffer from various types of anxiety, fearfulness, or overexcitement. Such feelings or behaviors are common problems for dogs, for example, and can present many symptoms and severity levels. On the less extreme end of the spectrum, a fear of thunder may cause the dog to shake and cling to her owner. On the other extreme, the fear may cause panicked running, destructive chewing, defecating indoors, seizures, or other erratic behavior. Additional known symptoms include panting, drooling, whining, barking, hiding, seeking tight spaces, trembling, scratching, not eating, and pacing. Some owners are not aware that negative behavior they are seeing is actually caused by anxiety. In addition to noises, other sources of anxiety may include separation from owner(s), travel, crating, strangers, other dogs, and much more.

[0003] Determining what causes a dog's anxiety may be difficult or impossible to pinpoint. The start of the anxiety may in some cases be traced to a traumatic incident such as being too close to a fireworks show or too close to a lightning strike and the subsequent thunder clap. However, a dog may have a genetic predisposition

for noise or other types of anxiety. Studies have shown that some breeds, such as Collies, Golden Retrievers, and German Shepherds, have a higher incidence of noise anxiety. For some dogs, noise anxiety

gradually appears and worsens as they age for no apparent reason, while for others, noise anxiety appears as a puppy and stays with them.

[0004] There are several known treatments to consider for giving relief to a dog from anxiety. For example, for noise anxiety, the owner may change the dog's environment with "common sense" attempts to give the dog comfort. Efforts may include creating a safe haven for the dog, such as a blanket-covered crate, finding a location that will reduce the noise level, or turning on music or the television to help mask the sound of the problem noise. These efforts, however, typically do not show dramatic results, but they can help to reduce symptoms.

[0005] A second treatment approach is behavior modification. For example, desensitization is one of the most common behavior modifications tried for noise anxiety. In a controlled environment, the dog is exposed to a low level of the noise. As she becomes accustomed to the noise, the volume is increased over time until she learns to tolerate a high level of noise. This approach has limitations in practice; it is very time consuming, in some cases it is not effective because many dogs recognize the difference between artificial and real events, and if it is effective, the dog will likely require ongoing periodic treatments.

[0006] A third treatment approach is medication. There are a variety of prescription medications that a veterinarian may suggest. Some are administered on a regular basis for the life of the dog (Paroxetine or Fluoxetine), while others are given only at the time of an anxiety event (valium). Sometimes a combination of drugs is used. Any of these options tend to be relatively expensive when accounting for the veterinarian visits and the drug costs, and the medications pose a risk of unwanted physical side effects that may be severe.

[0007] A final form of treatment is a "pressure wrap." A pressure wrap is material that wraps around the dog's torso, in particular the chest and sometimes the stomach, to provide a constant, gentle pressure. It is uncertain why wraps are effective, but anxiety

experts such as Dr. Temple Grandin suggest that pressure has a calming effect on the nervous system. Examples of using pressure to calm anxiety include pressure shirts for people with autism, squeeze chutes for cattle, pressure shirts and weighted vests for children with certain behavioral disorders, and swaddling infants. This treatment has been proven very effective for many dogs. Some wraps are homemade, for example, out of an appropriately sized t-shirt, but wraps can be difficult to put on and get the desired fit. Some conventional pressure wraps lack ease in applying the wrap and may be difficult to adjust to the right pressure.

Summary

[0007a] According to the present invention there is provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

10 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end
15 opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and forming a portion of a perimeter of the garment, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis and forming a portion of the perimeter of the garment, the second direction opposite the first direction;

20 a first flap extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

25 a second flap extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

30 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment; and

35 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment,

40 wherein when the garment is worn by an animal the first flap and the second flap

extend around the animal's mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the front end of the central portion is positioned proximate to the head of the animal,

5 wherein the first strap and the second strap each have an inside surface adapted to contact the animal and an outside surface adapted to face away from the animal, wherein the first strap and the second strap are extendible around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other with hook and loop fasteners, wherein the inside surface of the first strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and

10 wherein the outside surface of the second strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and wherein the garment when worn, applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

15 [0007b] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

20 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and forming a portion of a perimeter of the garment, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis and forming a portion of the perimeter of the garment, the second direction opposite the first direction;

25 a first flap extending from the first side of the first side of the central portion; the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

a second flap extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion; the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

30 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end and two

opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment; and

5 a cinching flap having a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end,

10 5 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the cinching flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof, and the front end of the central portion is positioned proximate to the head of the animal,

15 wherein the first strap and the second strap each have an inside surface adapted to contact the animal and an outside surface adapted to face away from the animal, wherein the first strap

15 15 and the second strap are extendible around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other with hook and loop fasteners, wherein the inside surface of the first strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and wherein the outside surface of the second strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and the garment, when worn, applies pressure to the animal.

20 [0007c] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

25 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

30 a first flap extending from the first side of the central portion; the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and an outside surface; and

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface including a hook section of fastener

and a loop section of fastener,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other.

[0007d] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

10 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

15 a first flap extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface and an outside surface; and

20 a second flap extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface,

25 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal, the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal,

wherein the outside surface of one of the first flap or the second flap includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and the inside surface of the other one of the first flap or the second flap includes at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a second direction, and wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the first flap and the second flap are fastened together, the first strips and the second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other.

[0007e] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

30 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first

direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

5 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

10 a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface; and

15 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the third flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the 20 central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other,

25 and wherein the first strap and the second strap fasten to each other with hook and loop fasteners, the inside surface of the first strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and the outside surface of the second strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener.

[0007f] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an 30 animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and

including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

5 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

10 a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface; and

15 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body 20 of the animal, and the third flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap 25 extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other, and

wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap has an inside surface and an outside surface, wherein the outside surface of one of the first flap or the second flap includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and the inside surface of the other of the first flap or the second flap includes at least two 30 second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a second direction, and wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the first flap and the second flap are fastened together, the first strips and the second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other.

[0007g] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

5 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

10 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

15 a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

20 a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

25 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface; and

30 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the third flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other, and

wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap has an inside surface and an outside surface, wherein the outside surface of one of the first flap or the third flap includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and

the inside surface of the other one of the first flap or the third flap includes at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a second direction, wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the third flap and the first flap are fastened together, the first strips and the second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other.

5 [0007h] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

10 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

15 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end;

20 a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end;

25 a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

30 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

35 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener,

40 wherein the first flap and the second flap are configured to extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the third flap is configured to extend at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof, and

wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to fasten to each other around the neck of the animal.

[0007i] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

5 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

10 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

15 a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

20 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface; and

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface,

25 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the third flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof, and

30 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other,

wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap has an inside surface and an outside surface, wherein the first flap outside surface includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and the third flap inside surface includes at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a second direction, wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the third flap overlaps the first flap, the at least two first strips and the at least two second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other such that the third flap is fastened to the first flap.

[0007j] According to the present invention there is also provided a method of reducing anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof, in an animal, the animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, a neck, a chest, and a stomach, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the method comprising:

 placing a garment on the mid-body of the animal, the garment including:

 a central portion comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex having a

15 longitudinal axis and including a front end positioned proximate to the head of the animal, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

20 a first flap comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

 a second flap comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

25 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

30 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener;

 wrapping the first flap under the chest, the stomach, or a combination thereof of the animal to overlap the second flap;

stretching the first flap prior to securing the first flap to the second flap;
securing the first flap to the second flap; and
securing the first strap to the second strap around the neck of the animal,
wherein the stretchable fabric forming the central portion and the first and second flaps
5 provides resiliency when stretched such that the garment applies pressure to the animal
adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or any combination thereof in the
animal.

[0007k] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an
animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal
10 having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the
garment comprising:

15 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric including spandex and having a
longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side
extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending
laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first
direction;

20 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric including spandex and extending in the first
direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end;

25 a second flap comprising stretchable fabric including spandex and extending in the
second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free
distal end; and

at least one strap comprising stretchable fabric including spandex and extending from
the front end of the central portion, the at least one strap including a free distal end, an inside
surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the at least one strap including a hook
section of fastener and a loop section of fastener attaching to a complementary stretchable
25 fabric including spandex with an outside surface including a hook section of fastener and a
loop section of fastener;

30 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap
extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion
and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body
of the animal,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the at least one strap extends around the neck
of the animal, and wherein the stretchable fabric forming the central portion, the first flap, and

the second flap provides resiliency when stretched such that the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, over-excitement, or any combination thereof in the animal.

[0007I] According to the present invention there is also provided a method of reducing anxiety, fearfulness, over-excitement, or a combination thereof, in an animal, the animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, a neck, a chest, and a stomach, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the method comprising:

10 placing a garment on the mid-body of the animal, the garment including:

15 a central portion comprising a stretchable fabric having a longitudinal axis and including a front end positioned proximate to the head of the animal, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

20 a first flap comprising a stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

25 a second flap comprising a stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

30 a third flap comprising a stretchable fabric and having a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

35 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

40 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener;

45 wrapping the first flap under the chest, the stomach, or a combination thereof of the animal to overlap the second flap;

50 stretching the first flap prior to securing the first flap to the second flap; securing the first flap to the second flap;

securing the first strap to the second strap around the neck of the animal,
wrapping the third flap such that the distal end of the third flap overlaps the first flap
proximate to where the first flap is secured to the second flap;
stretching the third flap prior to securing the third flap to the central portion, the first
5 flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof; and
securing the third flap to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any
combination thereof,
wherein the stretchable fabric forming the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and
the third flap provides resiliency when stretched such that the garment applies pressure to the
10 animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or any combination thereof in
the animal.

[0007m] According to the present invention there is also provided a garment for an
animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal
having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the
15 garment comprising:

a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and
including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first
direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction
from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

20 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the
first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end;

a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from
the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end;

25 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including
a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap
including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in
the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, an inside
surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook
30 section of fastener and a loop section of fastener,
wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to fasten to each other around the
neck of the animal.

[0008] In accordance with one embodiment, a garment is provided for an animal having a first pair of appendages and a second pair of appendages, and further having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages. The garment includes a central portion, a first flap, and a second flap. The central portion has a longitudinal axis and a front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis in a direction opposite the first direction. The first flap extends from the first side of the central portion, and the second flap extends from the second side of the central portion. The flaps are adapted to extend around the animal's mid-body and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the animal's mid-body, and the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

[0009] An embodiment may further provide that the central portion has a front end adapted to be positioned proximate to the head of the animal, and a rear end opposite the front end. A pair of straps may extend from the front end of the central portion in spaced

relation, and the straps may be adapted to extend around the animal's neck and fasten to each other.

[0010] In accordance with another embodiment, a garment is provided for an animal having a first pair of appendages and a second pair of appendages, and further having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages. The garment includes a central portion, a first flap, a second flap, and a cinching member. The central portion has a longitudinal axis and a front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis in a direction opposite the first direction. The first flap extends from the first side of the central portion, and the second flap extends from the second side of the central portion. The cinching member has a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end. The flaps are adapted to extend around the animal's mid-body and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the animal's mid-body to form a sleeve. The cinching member is adapted to extend at least partially around the sleeve and to fasten to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof to further tighten the garment to apply pressure to the animal.

[0011] In accordance with another embodiment, a garment is provided for an animal having a first pair of appendages and a second pair of appendages, and further having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages. The garment includes a central portion, a first flap, and a second flap. The central portion has a longitudinal axis and a front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis in a direction opposite the first direction. The first flap extends from the first side of the central portion, and the second flap extends from the second side of the

central portion. The flaps are adapted to extend around the animal's mid-body and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the animal's mid-body. The central portion, the first flap, and the second flap are made of a fabric including approximately from 5% to 25% spandex to apply resilient pressure to the animal.

[0012] In accordance with another embodiment, a garment is provided for an animal having a first pair of appendages and a second pair of appendages, and further having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages. The garment includes a central portion that has a longitudinal axis and a front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis in a direction opposite the first direction. Means for operatively connecting the first side and second side of the central portion together around the animal to form a sleeve are also provided. The garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

[0013] In accordance with another embodiment, a method of reducing anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof, in an animal is provided. The animal has a first pair of appendages and a second pair of appendages, with a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages. The method includes placing a garment on the mid-body of the animal. The garment includes a central portion, a first flap, and a second flap. The central portion has a longitudinal axis and a front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis in a direction opposite the first direction. The first flap extends from the first side of the central portion, and the second flap extends from the second side of the central portion. The method further includes wrapping

the first flap under the animal's chest, stomach, or a combination thereof to overlap the second flap. The first flap is secured to the second flap such that the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0014] For a more complete understanding of embodiments of a pressure-applying garment for animals and associated methods, reference should now be had to the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings and described below. In the drawings:

[0015] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a pressure-applying garment as worn by an exemplary animal.

[0016] FIG. 2 is a top plan view of a first embodiment of the pressure-applying garment of FIG. 1.

[0017] FIG. 3 is bottom plan view of the embodiment of FIG. 2.

[0018] FIG. 4 is a top plan view of a second embodiment of the pressure-applying garment of FIG. 1.

[0019] FIG. 5 is bottom plan view of the embodiment of FIG. 4.

[0020] FIGS. 6A-6D are perspective views of the embodiment of FIG. 1 showing various stages of putting the garment on an exemplary animal.

Description

[0021] Certain terminology is used herein for convenience only and is not to be taken as a limitation on the embodiments described. For example, words such as "top", "bottom", "front," "upper," "lower," "left," "right," "horizontal," "vertical," "upward," and "downward" merely describe the configuration shown in the figures. Indeed, the referenced

components may be oriented in any direction and the terminology, therefore, should be understood as encompassing such variations unless specified otherwise. Throughout this disclosure, where a process or method is shown or described, the steps of the method may be performed in any order or simultaneously, unless it is clear from the context that one step depends on another being performed first.

[0022] Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding or similar elements throughout the several views, an embodiment of a pressure wrap garment 20 is shown in FIGS. 1-3. Although in FIG. 1 the garment is shown on a dog, the garment 20 may be applied to nearly any type of animal with four legs, or two arms and two legs. For example, in addition to a dog, the garment 20 may be worn by a cat or a monkey. This embodiment of the garment 20, 20a includes a central portion 24 having a longitudinal axis A—A, a left strap 26 and a right strap 28 extending from the front of the central portion 24 approximately parallel to the longitudinal axis A—A, a long flap 30 extending from the right side of the central portion 24 substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis A—A, a short flap 32 extending from the left side of the central portion 24 substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis A—A, and a top flap or cinching member 34 that is attached to the central portion 24 substantially along a longitudinal axis A—A of the central portion. The top of the garment 20a is shown in FIG. 2, and the bottom of the garment 20a is shown in FIG. 3. As worn by a dog 40, the left strap 26 and the right strap 28 go around the dog's neck and fasten to each other, with the bottom of the right strap 28 going over the top of the left strap 26. The long flap 30 goes around the dog's chest and stomach to fasten to the short flap 32, with the bottom of the long flap 30 going over the top of the short flap 32. The cinching member 34 folds down to fasten to the top of the long flap 30. Alternatively, the cinching member 34 could fold down to fasten to the central portion 24.

[0023] In the embodiment shown, hook and loop fasteners, such as Velcro® (VELCRO is a registered trademark of Velcro Industries B.V.), are used to removably attach the parts of the garment to each other. The hook material is designated at 42, and the loop material is designated at 44, but the materials may be switched so long as a hook surface meets a loop surface when the material is brought together. Other fasteners may be used as recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art, such as a series of buttons or snaps, or a combination of webbed straps and clips.

[0024] FIGS. 4 and 5 show another embodiment of a pressure-applying garment 20b. The garment 20b is constructed similarly to the garment 20a of FIGS. 2 and 3, but includes on the left strap 26 on the top surface (FIG. 4) a portion near the end of the strap that is hook material 42, while on the bottom surface (FIG. 5) of the right strap 28 a portion that is loop material 44. Including both materials 42, 44 on the mating straps assist in maintaining the straps around the animal's neck without sagging. The embodiments of the garments 20a, 20b of FIGS. 2 and 3 and FIGS. 4 and 5 are further embodiments of the garment 20 embodiment of FIG. 1.

[0025] The material used for the garment 20 may have a composition that ranges, for example, from 5% to 25% spandex. The remainder of the material may be or include, for example, cotton and polyester. In one embodiment, the fabric may be made of 10% spandex, 55% cotton, and 35% polyester, or may be made of material of approximately that composition. Other fabrics and combinations of materials may be used as recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art, so long as the material exhibits a degree of elasticity that provides an expandable and flexible, yet snug, fit with pressure adequate to relieve anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof, in the animal, and resilience that allows the material to return approximately to its original size when removed from the animal. In the embodiment of FIGS. 1-3, the central portion 24, straps 26, 28, long flap 30,

and short flap 32 are made of one piece of material, with two layers sewn together continuously along the periphery. The cinching member 34 is sewn to the central portion 24 along one edge of the cinching member 34. One alternative configuration to the cinching member 34 may include the use of fabric straps, webbed straps, or elastic bands with clips or other connection means.

[0026] The garment 20 may be applied to an animal as shown in FIGS. 6A-6D. First, as shown in FIG. 6A, the garment 20 is placed on a back of the dog 40. Next, in FIG. 6B the long flap 30 is wrapped 50 under the dog's chest, stomach, and up the dog's left side and is secured with fasteners to the short flap 32 to achieve a comfortable, snug fit around the dog's mid-body, being the portion of the body between the dog's front and rear legs. The cinching member 34 is then wrapped 52 down onto the long flap 30 and is secured with fasteners in FIG. 6C, with some additional tension imparted on the garment to apply additional pressure to the dog, which will still be comfortable for the dog and give the dog a sense of security. As shown in FIG. 6D, the straps 26, 28 may then be wrapped 54 around the front of the dog 40 and secured with fasteners. If desired, the straps 26, 28 may be left attached when removing the garment 20 to save the step of fastening them the next time the garment 20 is put on the dog 40.

[0027] Although the embodiments described above have been shown and described in considerable detail with respect to only a few exemplary embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that it is not intended to be limited to these embodiments since various modifications, omissions and additions may be made to the disclosed embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages. The directions in which the flaps are folded could differ from those shown and the lengths of the flaps may vary. For example, the long flap 30 and the short flap 32 could be of equal length and fasten on top of the animal's back rather than on the lower side. The

straps 26, 28, the cinching member 34, or both, may be omitted. Accordingly, it is intended to cover all such modifications, omission, additions and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of a pressure-applying garment and associated methods as defined by the following claims. In the claims, means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents but also equivalent structures. Thus, although a nail and a screw may not be structural equivalents in that a nail employs a cylindrical surface to secure wooden parts together, whereas a screw employs a helical surface, in the environment of fastening wooden parts, a nail and a screw may be equivalent structures.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

5 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and forming a portion of a perimeter of the garment, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis and forming a portion of the 10 perimeter of the garment, the second direction opposite the first direction;

10 a first flap extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

15 a second flap extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

20 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment; and

25 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment,

25 wherein when the garment is worn by an animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the animal's mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the front end of the central portion is positioned proximate to the head of the animal,

30 wherein the first strap and the second strap each have an inside surface adapted to contact the animal and an outside surface adapted to face away from the animal, wherein the first strap and the second strap are extendible around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other with hook and loop fasteners, wherein the inside surface of the first strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and

wherein the outside surface of the second strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and wherein the garment when worn, applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

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2. The garment of claim 1, further comprising a cinching flap having a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end, and wherein the cinching flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof to further tighten the garment to apply pressure to the animal.

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3. The garment of claim 2, wherein the proximate end of the cinching flap is attached generally along the longitudinal axis of the central portion.

15

4. The garment of claim 2, wherein the central portion, the first flap, the second flap and the cinching flap comprise a fabric that when stretched provides resiliency adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

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5. The garment of claim 2, wherein the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and the cinching flap comprise a fabric comprising from approximately 5% to 25% spandex.

25

6. The garment of claim 2, wherein the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and the cinching flap comprise a fabric comprising approximately 10% spandex, 55% cotton, and 35% polyester.

7. The garment of claim 2, wherein when the cinching flap is fastened to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof, the cinching flap overlaps and covers the free distal end of the first flap.

30

8. The garment of claim 1, wherein the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the loop section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the hook section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the first strap..

9. A garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

10 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and forming a portion of a perimeter of the garment, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis and forming a portion of the perimeter of the garment, the second direction opposite the first direction;

15 a first flap extending from the first side of the first side of the central portion; the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

20 a second flap extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion; the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second flap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the first strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment;

25 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end and two opposing edges that with the free distal end of the second strap form a portion of the perimeter of the garment; and

a cinching flap having a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end,

30 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the cinching flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the

central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof, and the front end of the central portion is positioned proximate to the head of the animal,

5 wherein the first strap and the second strap each have an inside surface adapted to contact the animal and an outside surface adapted to face away from the animal, wherein the first strap and the second strap are extendible around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other with hook and loop fasteners, wherein the inside surface of the first strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and wherein the outside surface of the second strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and the garment, when worn, applies pressure to the animal.

10. The garment of claim 9, wherein the proximate end of the cinching flap is attached generally along the longitudinal axis of the central portion.

15. The garment of claim 9, wherein the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

12. The garment of claim 9, wherein the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and 20 the cinching flap comprise a fabric comprising from approximately 5% to 25% spandex.

13. The garment of claim 9, wherein the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the loop section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the hook section of fastener on the 25 outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the first strap.

14. The garment of claim 9, wherein when the cinching flap is fastened to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof, the cinching flap overlaps and 30 covers the free distal end of the first flap.

15. The garment of claim 9, wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the cinching flap has inside surfaces adapted to be adjacent to the animal, and outside surfaces opposite the inside surfaces adapted to face away from the animal, wherein the second flap outside surface includes at least one first strip oriented in a first direction of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners, and the first flap inside surface includes at least one second strip oriented in a second direction of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners, wherein when the first flap overlaps the second flap, the first strip and the second strip are substantially perpendicular to each other so such that the first flap is fastened to the second flap.

5 16. The garment of claim 9, wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the cinching flap has inside surfaces adapted to be adjacent to the animal, and outside surfaces opposite the inside surfaces adapted to face away from the animal, wherein the first flap outside surface includes at least one first strip oriented in a first direction of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners, and the cinching flap inside surface includes at least one second strip oriented in a second direction of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners, wherein when the cinching flap overlaps the first flap, the first strip and the second strip are substantially perpendicular to each other such that the first flap is fastened to the second flap.

10 17. A garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

15 a central portion having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

20 a first strap extending from the first side of the central portion; the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and an outside surface; and

25 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener,

30 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap

extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other.

18. The garment of claim 17, wherein the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the loop section of

5 fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the hook section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap.

19. The garment of claim 17, wherein the loop section of fastener on the inside surface of

10 the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the hook section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap.

15 20. The garment of claim 17, further comprising:

a first flap extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

a second flap extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

20 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal.

25 21. The garment of claim 20, wherein the garment, when worn by the animal, applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

22. The garment of claim 20, wherein each of the first flap and the second flap has an 30 inside surface and an outside surface, the outside surface of one of the first flap or the second flap includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and the inside surface of the other one of the first flap or the second flap

includes at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a second direction, and wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the first flap and the second flap are fastened together, the first strips and the second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other.

5

23. The garment of claim 22, wherein the second flap outside surface includes the at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in the first direction, and the first flap inside surface includes the at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in the second direction.

10

24. The garment of claim 20, further comprising a third flap having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end, wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the third flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that 15 conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof.

25. The garment of claim 24, wherein the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap comprise stretchable fabric that when stretched provides resiliency adequate 20 to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof in the animal.

26. The garment of claim 24, wherein the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap comprise stretchable fabric comprising spandex.

25 27. The garment of claim 24, wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the third flap is fastened to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof, the third flap overlaps and fully covers the free distal end of the fastened first flap.

28. The garment of claim 24, wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the third 30 flap has an inside surface and an outside surface, the outside surface of one of the first flap or the third flap includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and the inside surface of the other one of the first flap or the third flap includes at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented

in a second direction, and wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the third flap and the first flap are fastened together, the first strips and the second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other.

5 29. The garment of claim 28, wherein the first flap outside surface includes the at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in the first direction, and the third flap inside surface includes the at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in the second direction.

10 30. A garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

15 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

20 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

25 a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface; and

30 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, two opposing edges, an inside surface, and an outside surface,

wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first flap and the second flap extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion

and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the third flap extends at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or a combination thereof,

5 wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the first strap and the second strap extend around the neck of the animal and fasten to each other,

10 and wherein the first strap and the second strap fasten to each other with hook and loop fasteners, the inside surface of the first strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener, and the outside surface of the second strap includes a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener.

31. The garment of claim 30, wherein the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the loop section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the hook section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap.

32. A garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

5 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

10 a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end;

a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end;

a third flap comprising stretchable fabric and having a proximal end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

15 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

20 a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener,

25 wherein the first flap and the second flap are configured to extend around the mid-body of the animal and fasten to each other such that the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps form a shape conforming to the outside of the mid-body of the animal, and the third flap is configured to extend at least partially around the shape formed by the central portion and the fastened first and second flaps that conforms to the mid-body of the animal and fastens to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof, and

wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to fasten to each other

30 around the neck of the animal.

33. The garment of claim 32, wherein the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the loop section of

fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the hook section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap.

5 34. The garment of claim 32, wherein when the garment is worn by the animal and the third flap is fastened to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof, the third flap overlaps and fully covers the free distal end of the fastened first flap.

10 35. The garment of claim 32, wherein the first flap has opposing edges that are substantially parallel, wherein the third flap has opposing edges that are substantially parallel, and wherein the first flap and the third flap each have a primary width that is along a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the garment between the substantially parallel opposing edges of the respective flap, wherein the free distal end of the first flap overlaps and fastens to the second flap, and wherein the primary width of the third flap is greater than the primary 15 width of the first flap.

20 36. The garment of claim 32, wherein the third flap has opposing edges that are substantially parallel, and wherein the third flap has a primary width that is along a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the garment between the substantially parallel opposing edges of the third flap, and wherein the primary width of the third flap extends along the longitudinal axis more than one half of the distance between the front end and the rear end of the central portion.

25 37. The garment of claim 32, wherein each of the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap has an inside surface and an outside surface, wherein the second flap outside surface includes at least two first strips of one of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a first direction, and the first flap inside surface includes at least two second strips of the other of hook fasteners or loop fasteners oriented in a second direction, and wherein when the garment 30 is worn by the animal and the first flap overlaps the second flap, the at least two first strips and the at least two second strips are substantially perpendicular to each other such that the first flap is fastened to the second flap.

38. The garment of claim 32, wherein the first flap, second flap, and third flap have

respective opposing edges, and wherein the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap each have a greatest width that extends a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the central portion between the opposing edges of the respective flap, wherein the free distal end of the first flap fastens to the second flap, and wherein the greatest width of the third flap is greater than the greatest width of the first flap.

39. The garment of claim 32, wherein the third flap has opposing edges and has a width that extends a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the central portion between the edges of the third flap, and wherein when the garment is worn by the animal the greatest width of the third flap is more than one half of the distance between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages.

40. The garment of claim 32, wherein the central portion has a length that extends along the longitudinal axis between the front end and the rear end, wherein the third flap has opposing edges and has a width that extends a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the central portion between the edges of the third flap, and wherein the greatest width of the third flap is more than one half of the length of the central portion.

41. The garment of claim 32, wherein the hook section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap is interposed between the free distal end of the first strap and the loop section of fastener on the inside surface of the first strap, and wherein the hook section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap is interposed between the free distal end of the second strap and the loop section of fastener on the outside surface of the second strap.

42. A method of reducing anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or a combination thereof, in an animal, the animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, a neck, a chest, and a stomach, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the method comprising:

placing a garment on the mid-body of the animal, the garment including:

a central portion comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex having a longitudinal axis and including a front end positioned proximate to the head of the animal, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the

longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

a first flap comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

5 a second flap comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

10 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener;

15 wrapping the first flap under the chest, the stomach, or a combination thereof of the animal to overlap the second flap;

stretching the first flap prior to securing the first flap to the second flap;

securing the first flap to the second flap; and

securing the first strap to the second strap around the neck of the animal,

20 wherein the stretchable fabric forming the central portion and the first and second flaps provides resiliency when stretched such that the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or any combination thereof in the animal.

25 43. The method of claim 42, wherein the garment further comprises a third flap comprising a stretchable fabric including spandex and having a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end, and further comprising:

30 wrapping the third flap such that the distal end of the third flap overlaps the first flap proximate to where the first flap is secured to the second flap;

stretching the third flap prior to securing the third flap to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof; and

securing the third flap to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any

combination thereof,

wherein the stretchable fabric forming the third flap provides resiliency when stretched such that the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or any combination thereof in the animal.

5

44. A method of reducing anxiety, fearfulness, over-excitement, or a combination thereof, in an animal, the animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, a neck, a chest, and a stomach, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the method comprising:

10 placing a garment on the mid-body of the animal, the garment including:

a central portion comprising a stretchable fabric having a longitudinal axis and including a front end positioned proximate to the head of the animal, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

15 a first flap comprising a stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

20 a second flap comprising a stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end and two opposing edges;

a third flap comprising a stretchable fabric and having a proximate end attached to the central portion, the first flap, or the second flap and extending to a free distal end;

25 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener;

30 wrapping the first flap under the chest, the stomach, or a combination thereof of the animal to overlap the second flap;

stretching the first flap prior to securing the first flap to the second flap;

securing the first flap to the second flap;

securing the first strap to the second strap around the neck of the animal,

wrapping the third flap such that the distal end of the third flap overlaps the first flap proximate to where the first flap is secured to the second flap;

5 stretching the third flap prior to securing the third flap to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof; and

securing the third flap to the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, or any combination thereof,

wherein the stretchable fabric forming the central portion, the first flap, the second

10 flap, and the third flap provides resiliency when stretched such that the garment applies pressure to the animal adequate to reduce anxiety, fearfulness, overexcitement, or any combination thereof in the animal.

45. The garment of claim 44, wherein the stretchable fabric forming the central portion, the first flap, the second flap, and the third flap comprises spandex.

46. A garment for an animal having a first pair of appendages, a second pair of appendages, and a neck, the animal having a mid-body between the first pair of appendages and the second pair of appendages, the garment comprising:

20 a central portion comprising stretchable fabric and having a longitudinal axis and including a front end, a rear end opposite the front end, a first side extending laterally in a first direction from the longitudinal axis, and a second side extending laterally in a second direction from the longitudinal axis, the second direction opposite the first direction;

a first flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the first direction from the first side of the central portion, the first flap including a free distal end;

a second flap comprising stretchable fabric and extending in the second direction from the second side of the central portion, the second flap including a free distal end;

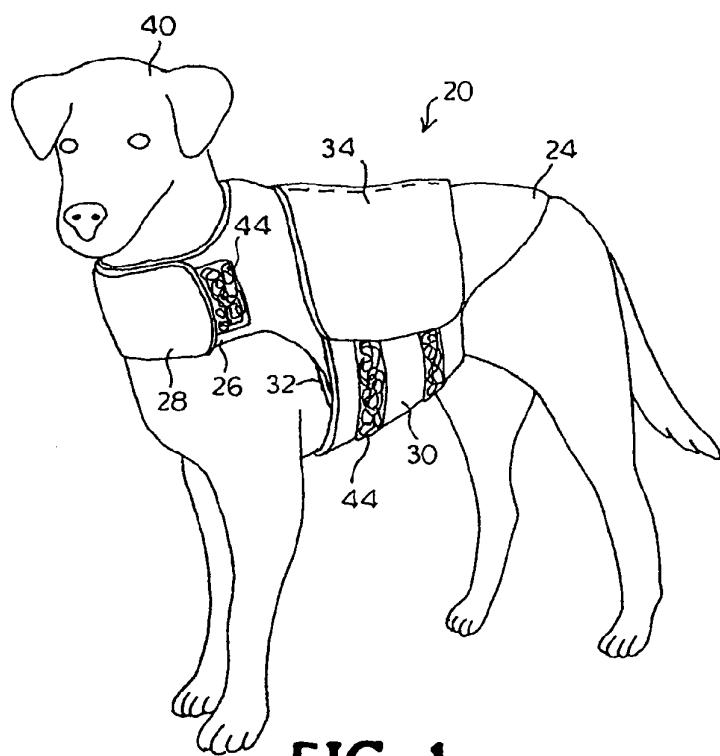
25 a first strap extending from the front end of the central portion, the first strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the inside surface of the first strap including a hook section of fastener and a loop section of fastener; and

a second strap extending from the front end of the central portion laterally spaced in the second direction from the first strap, the second strap including a free distal end, an inside surface, and an outside surface, the outside surface of the second strap including a hook

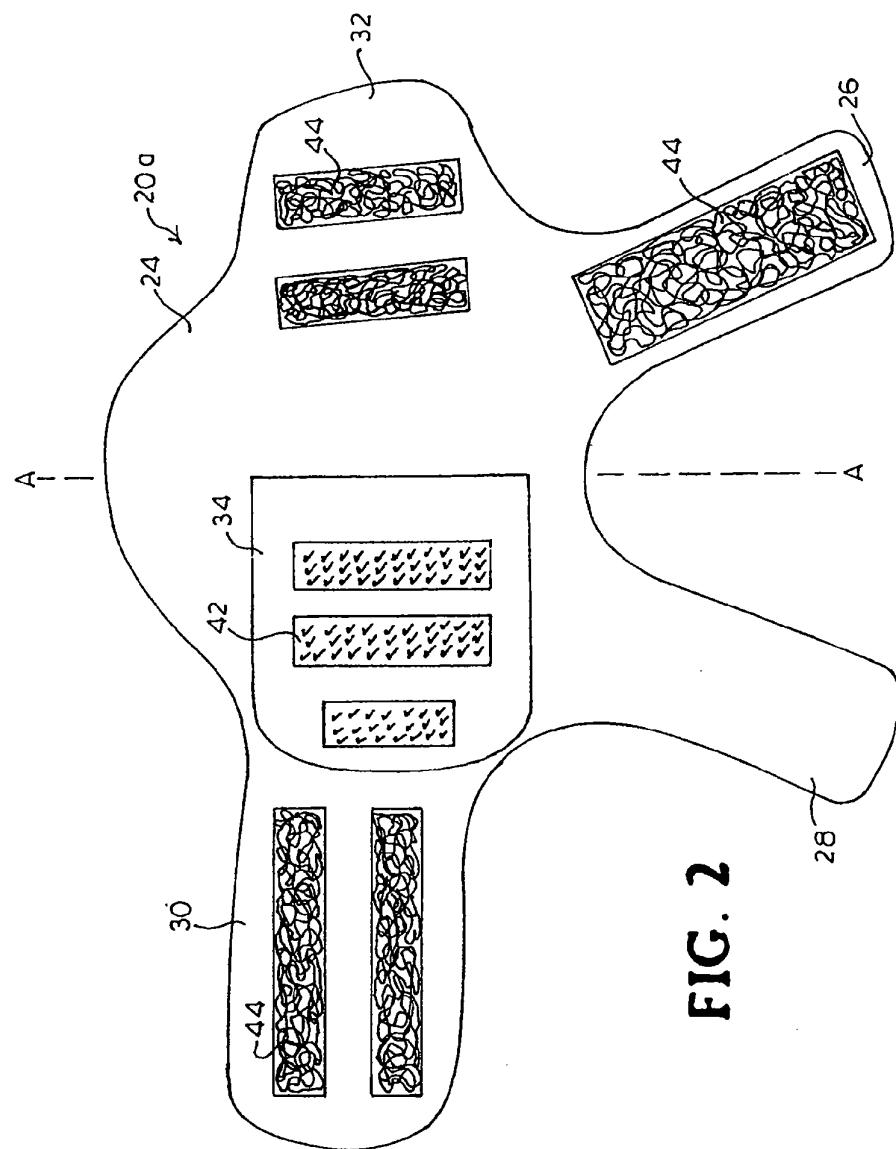
section of fastener and a loop section of fastener,

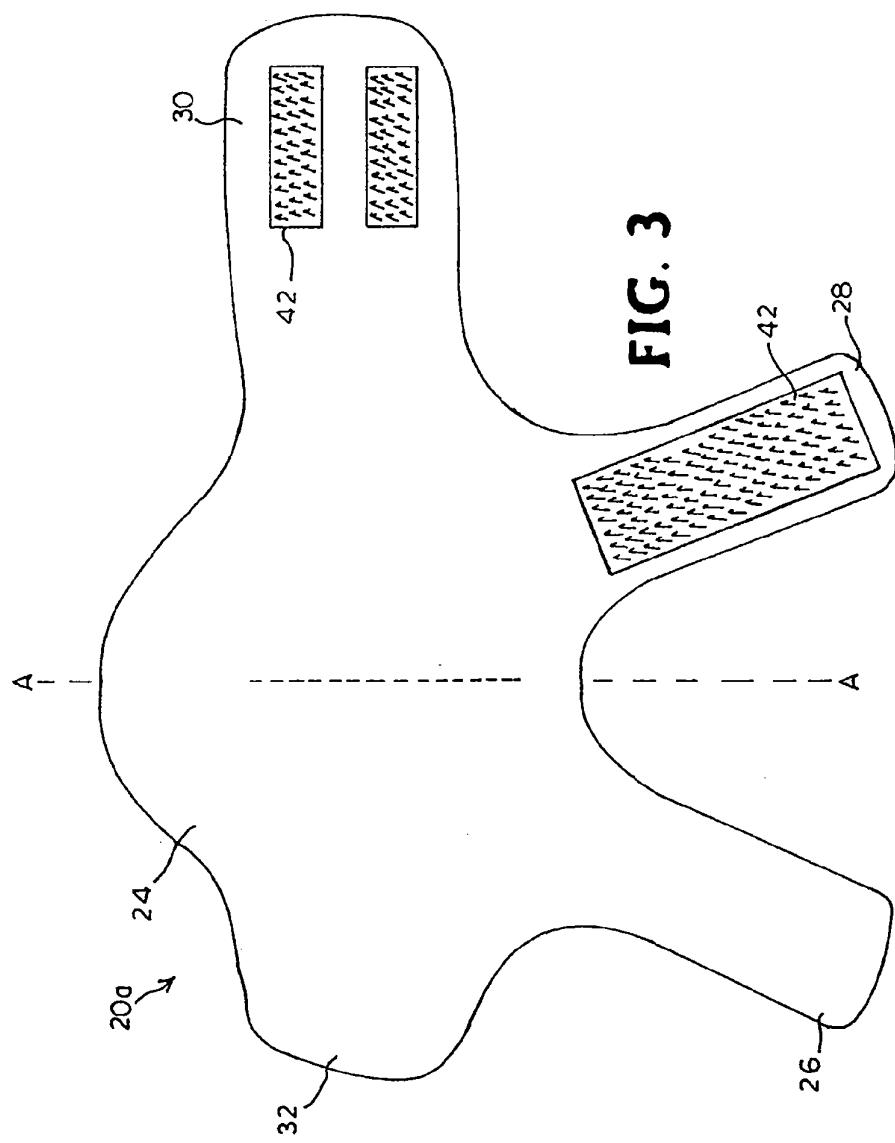
wherein the first strap and the second strap are configured to fasten to each other around the neck of the animal.

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**FIG. 1**

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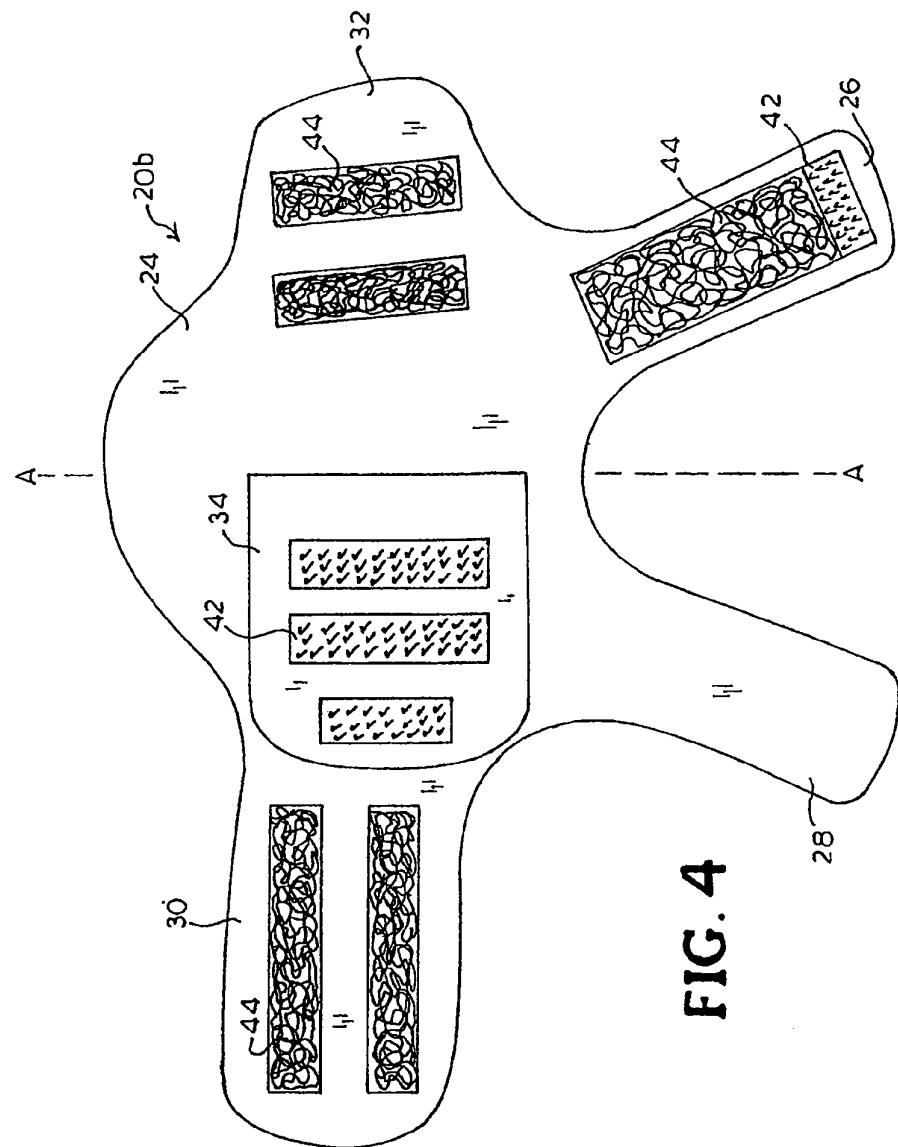
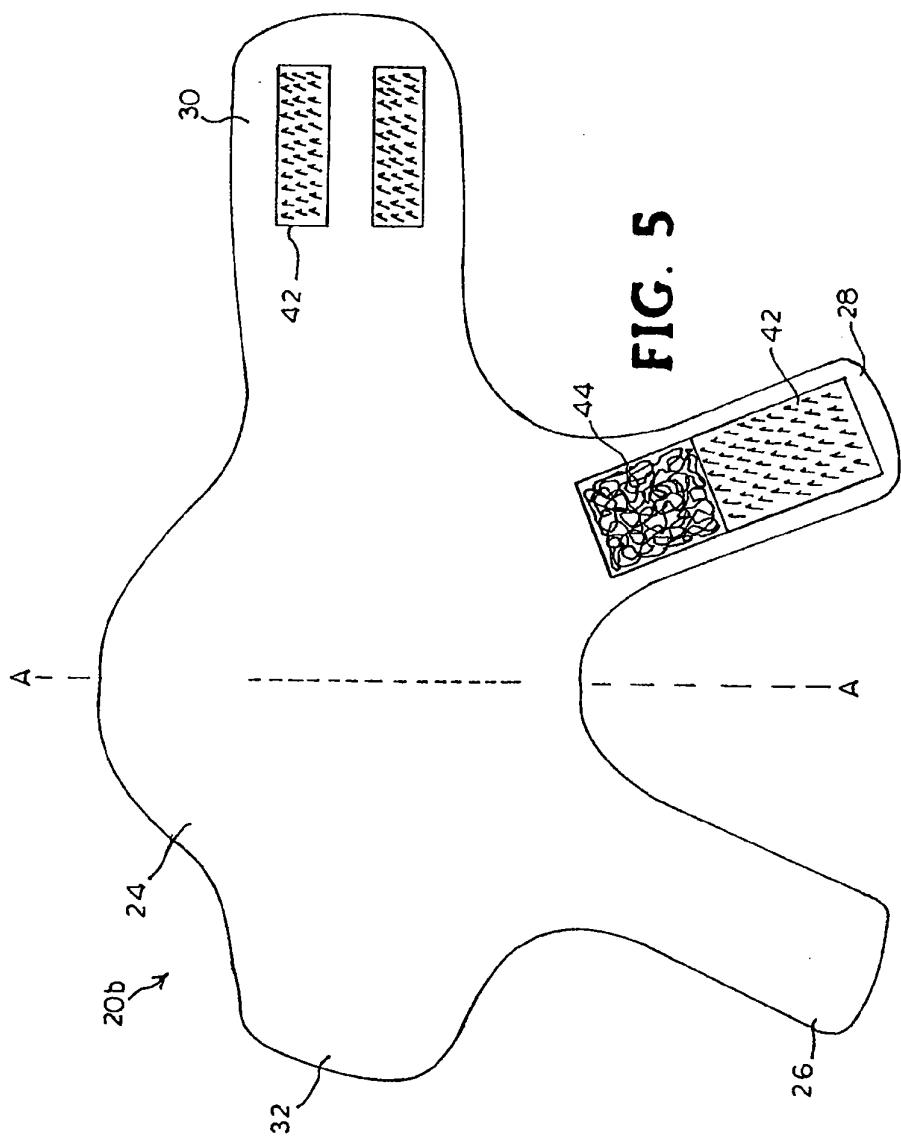
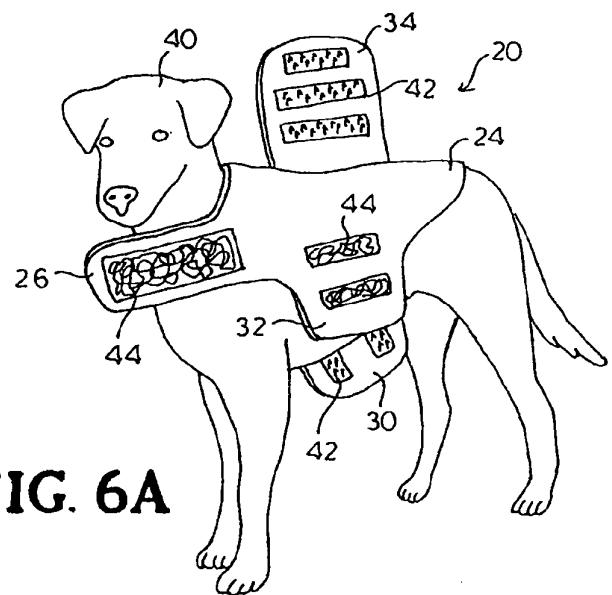
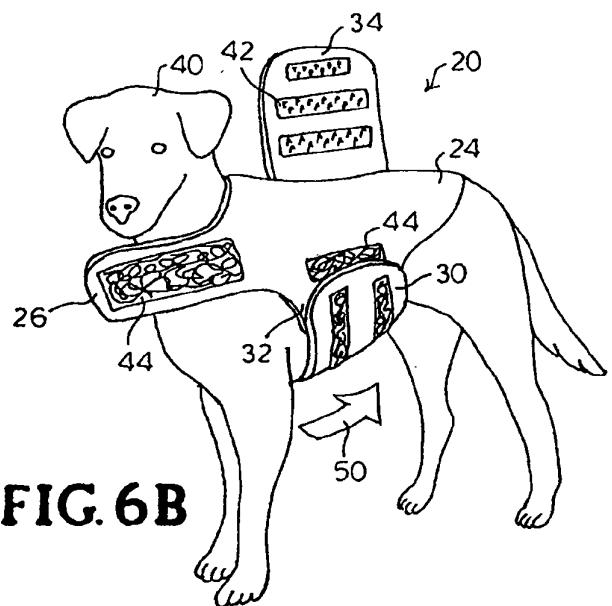


FIG. 4

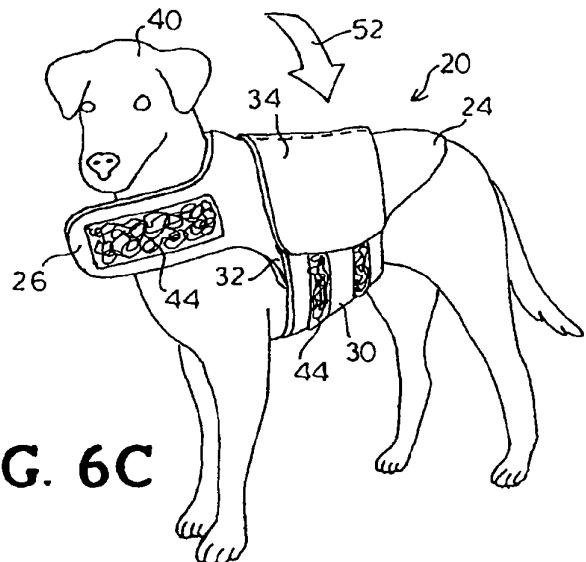
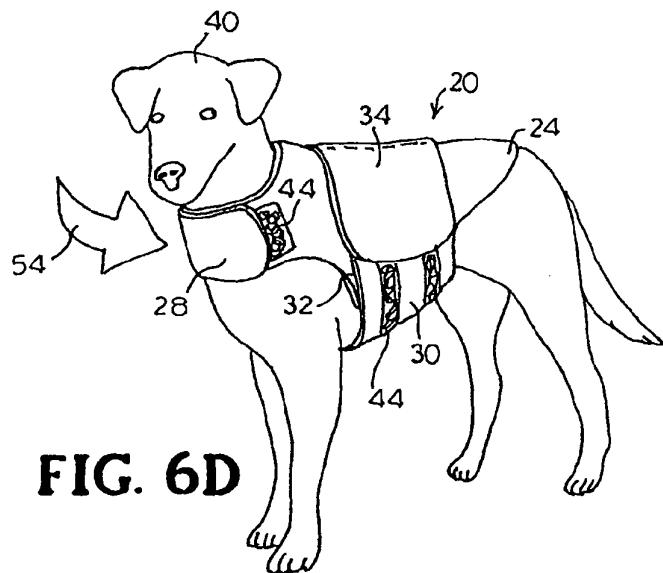
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**FIG. 6A****FIG. 6B**

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**FIG. 6C****FIG. 6D**