



Pet Driver's Education

How to Determine the Effectiveness of Dog Safety Harnesses

101

We Love to drive with our pets!

The good news: More than 50% of us drive with our dog at least once a month. Many people consider pets to be part of the family and include them when going on errands or road trips.

50%

The not so good news: Only 16% of us use some form of pet restraint when driving with pets, despite 83% of us agreeing that an unrestrained pet in a vehicle can be dangerous.

83%

16%

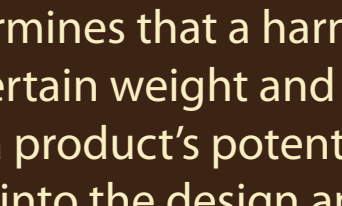
The frightening truth.

- ⚠ Pets can become a distraction and all distractions can endanger driver, passenger (pet and human), and bystander safety.
- ⚠ In an emergency situation, unrestrained pets can escape and become injured or cause a secondary accident.
- ⚠ Unrestrained pets can delay emergency responders from gaining access to injured human passengers after an accident.
- ⚠ Pets can become projectiles, potentially injuring themselves or human passengers. An unrestrained 80lb dog traveling in a vehicle at 30mph can yield over a ton of force (2400lbs) in a sudden stop or collision!

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Determining an effective pet safety restraint.



Crash testing determines that a harness's design and materials have been tested to a certain weight and speed. A successful crash test video provides proof of a product's potential durability and that adequate research has gone into the design and manufacturing of a pet safety harness. Viewing a manufacturer's crash test footage is the best way to determine the safety of a product and verify any manufacturer claims.



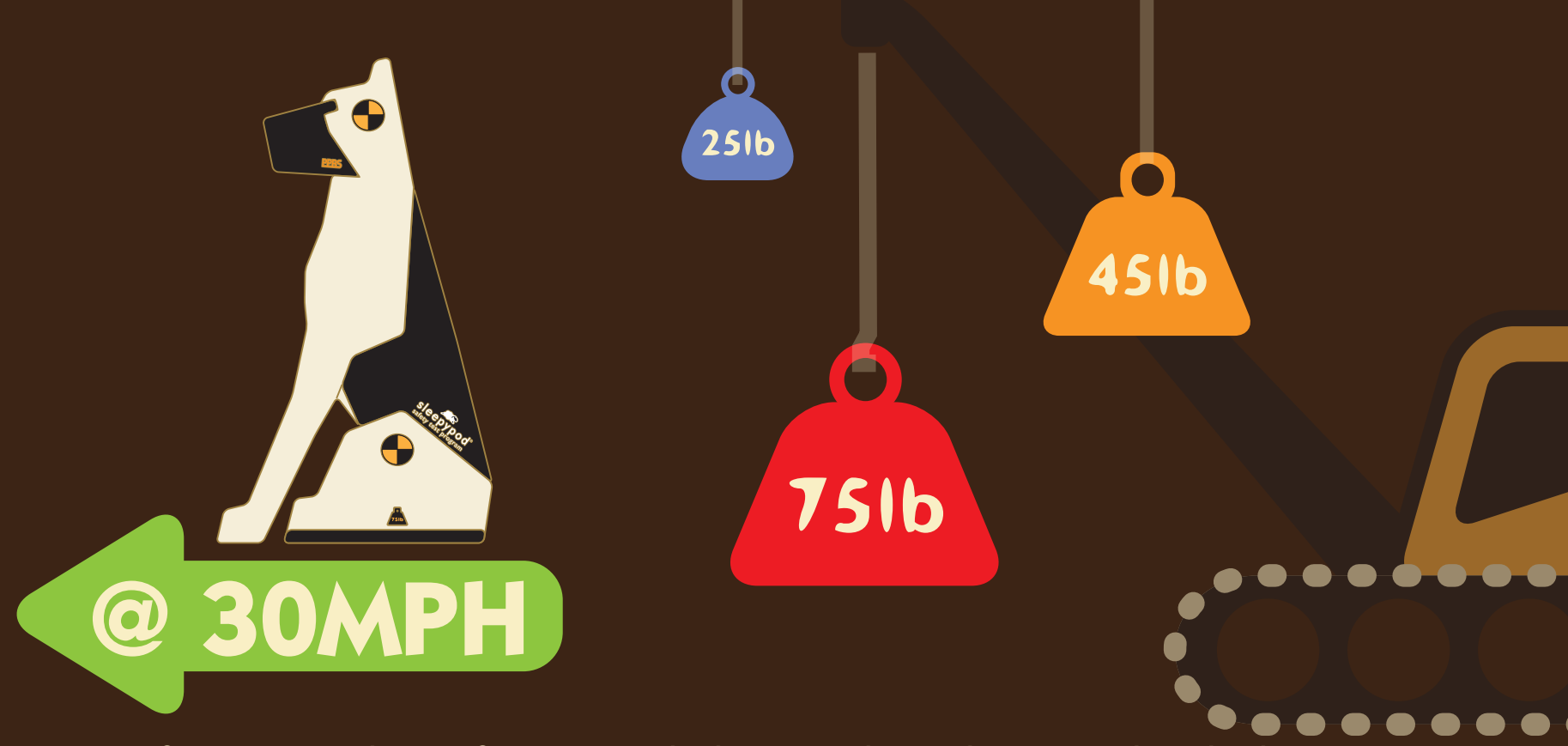
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Not all crash test videos created are equal.



Watch the manufacturer crash test video footage in its entirety: from start, through impact, and through deceleration.

What crash test dog weight was used at what speed of testing?



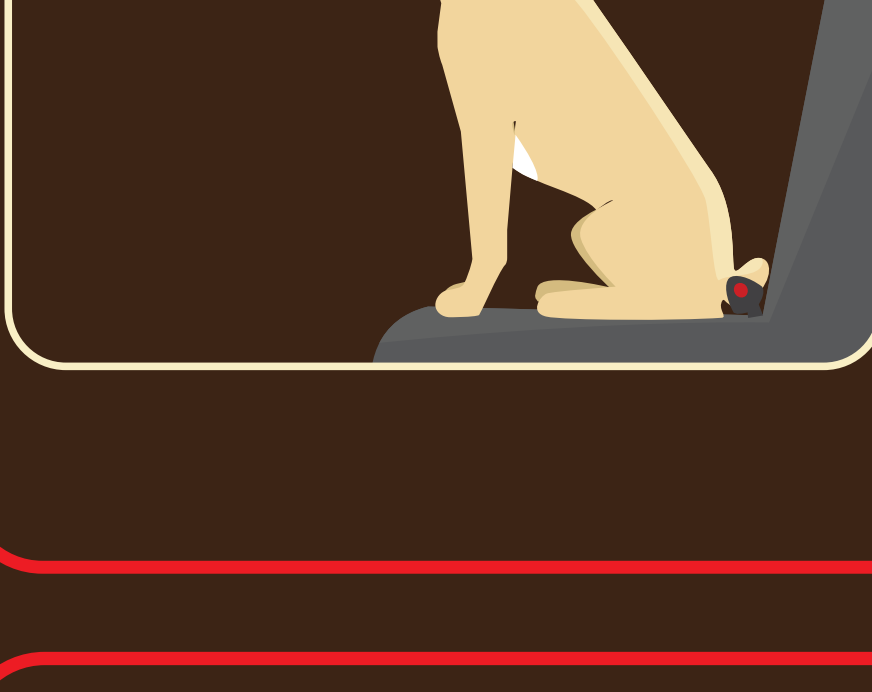
View manufacturer crash test footage with the tested weight in mind and take note of the speed of testing. A 75lb dog will respond much differently to a 30mph test compared to even a 60lb dog. The forces applied dramatically increase as the weight goes up and amplify stresses on the harness components.

How your pet is restrained determines the reaction in a crash.



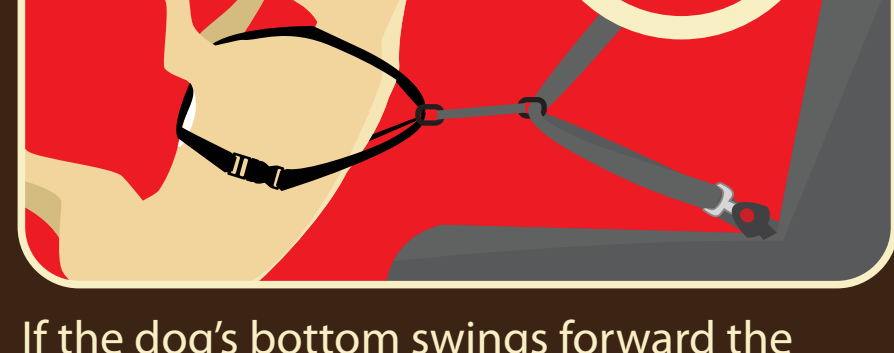
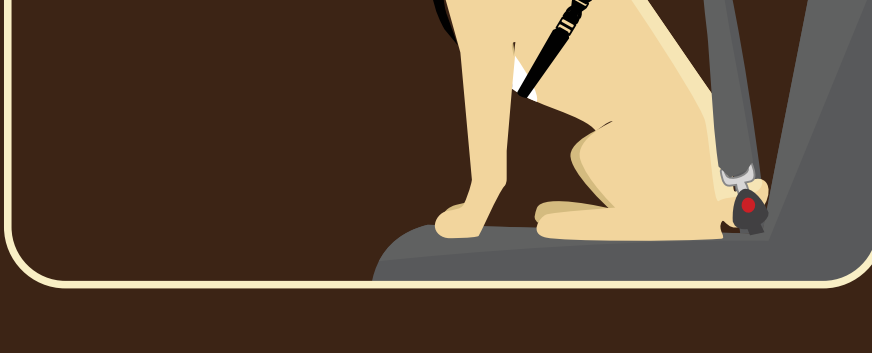
Like children, pets should NEVER ride in the front seat of a car unrestrained or restrained!

Unrestrained

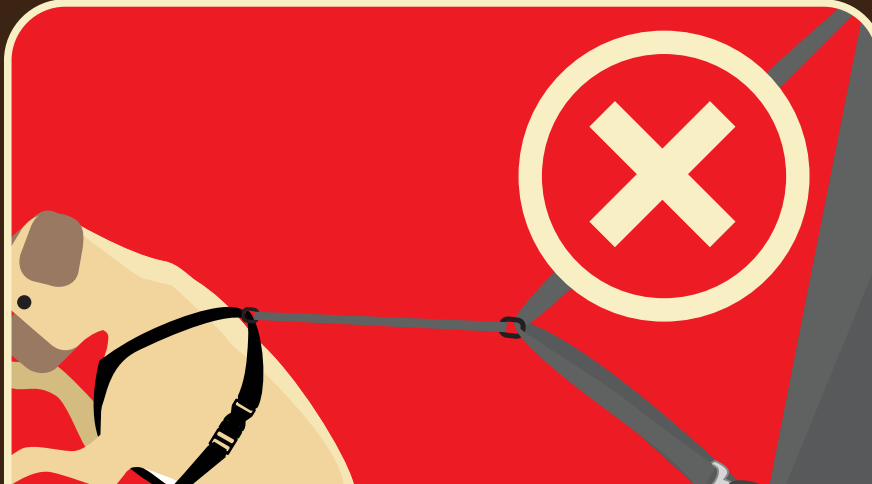


The dog leaves the seat and can collide with other objects or passengers in the vehicle.

1-point restraint in rear seat



If the dog's bottom swings forward the harness can choke the pet.



Long tethers can allow the dog to leave the seat and collide with objects or passengers.



When a harness breaks the dog continues forward and collides with other objects or passengers

2-point restraint in rear seat



*Connect to child seat LATCH anchors.



The dog's bottom remains in the seat while the upper body is restrained.

3-point restraint in rear seat



*Connect to both LATCH anchors and car seat belt.



The dog's bottom remains in the seat while the upper body is restrained.

2-point restraint in cargo

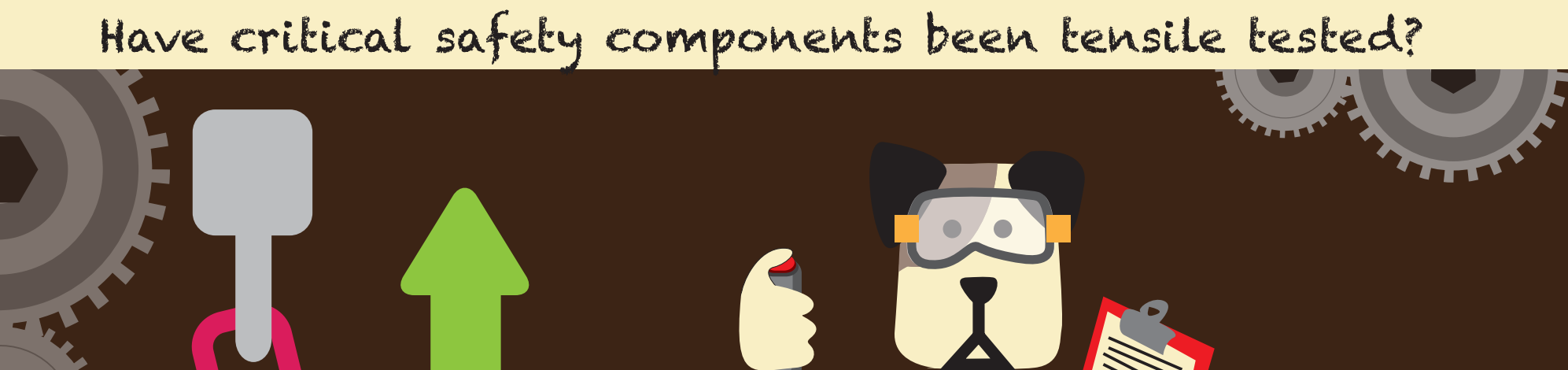


*Connect to anchors rated at +1500lbs breaking strength



The dog's bottom remains in place while the upper body is restrained.

Have critical safety components been tensile tested?



What is tensile testing?

The breaking strength in materials is determined in static tensile testing. Harness components such as webbing straps and metal hardware are pulled in machines to determine how much force can be applied before breaking.

About Sleepypod Safety Program

sleepypod
safety test program

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Sleepypod created the Sleepypod Safety Test Program to determine safety data for pet products. Weighted crash test dogs were designed, produced, and implemented by Sleepypod for the purpose of research of the crashworthiness of pet safety restraints.

Sleepypod dog harnesses and pet carriers use Pet Passenger Restraint System™ (PPRS) Technology. PPRS is a safety system designed to securely fasten pets in automobile seats during a sudden stop or collision. Each PPRS is put through stringent safety tests to include static material tensile testing and dynamic crash testing. Sleepypod PPRS offers a significantly safer way to travel for pet and human passengers alike. PPRS is part of the Sleepypod Safety Program that requires each Sleepypod product meet the highest standards for safety in order to reduce pet exposure to possible hazards.

Sources

Distracted driver sources

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration
AAA/Kurgo Pet Passenger Safety Survey

Pet safety research

Sleepypod Safety Test Program