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The Whole



Dog Journal™

A monthly guide to natural dog care and training

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How to take the tension out of dog-dog greetings, or peacefully incorporate a new dog into your pack.

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Recent headlines about the ability of Staphylococcus bacteria to spread from dogs to humans (or vice versa) scared many owners. Here's what you need to know about Staph.

11 Zoonosis and Therapy Dogs

These simple precautions can protect therapy dogs, handlers, and clients from spreading infection.

12 Light Up the Night

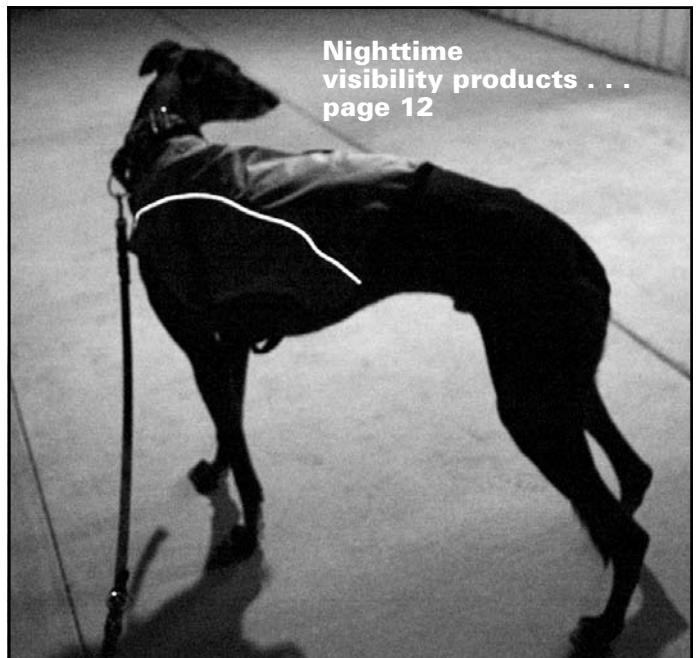
A review of products that help you safely walk your dog after dark.

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GLOW DOG PRODUCTS

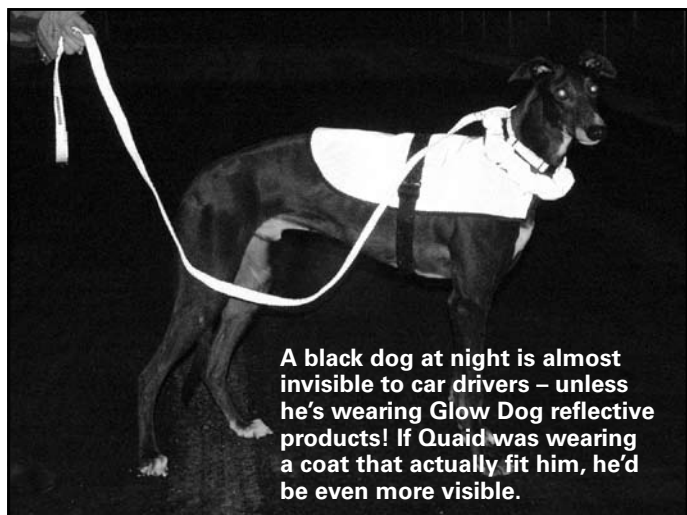


We tested five different Glow Dog reflective products: a vest (they call it a “jacket,” but it really provides only reflection, not warmth), a six-foot leash, a collar, a bandanna, and what Glow Dog calls a “Bunchie” – kind of a dog-neck-sized scrunchie. Each of these products is made with fabrics that have been completely covered with a “patented retro-reflective technology” the maker calls “Illuminite.” When a light shines on this material, the entire surface reflects brightly. All of the products show up extremely well, but the jacket provides an entire dog-shaped reflective silhouette that is instantly recognizable to a driver.

Once again, we found that our testers did not want to return these products – a great testimonial.

What we like: Glow Dog products are made with nice, light-weight but strong materials. They are available in several colors; all reflect at night in a bright white color. The maker also offers dozens of products for human use; see illuminite.com.

What we don't like: There isn't much to say here, except to note that the Glow Dog collar is for visibility only; it lacks a ring to clip a leash onto.



A black dog at night is almost invisible to car drivers – unless he's wearing Glow Dog reflective products! If Quaid was wearing a coat that actually fit him, he'd be even more visible.

ULTRA PAWS COAT AND VEST



Ultra Paws offers two perfectly nice reflective safety products for dogs: a lightweight vest and a medium-weight, fleece-lined coat. Each has two ¾-inch-wide strips of reflective material sewn to each side of the garment. The products provide more reflective material than many competitors we saw advertised, but not nearly as much as Glow Dog's products.

We purposely photographed these products on a black dog to show how much more visible a dog is when wearing a reflective product when walking near cars at night.



Ultra Paws Coat



Ultra Paws Vest

THE REFLECTOR



There is nothing fancy about this reflective collar (see photo below), which is made by Sellwood Dog Supply as part of its made-in-the-USA Gold Paw Series. But there is nothing shoddy about it, either! And, in contrast to Glow Dog's collar, it *is* made with a sturdy ring to fasten a leash to. It's a well-made, attractive collar that reflects well at night, and could work well as a dog's everyday collar, too. 🐾

Reflective Products

Product, contact info	Description	Other features (good and bad)	Price
Glow Dog Jacket, Leash, Collar, Bandanna, Bunchie Glow Dog (888) 456-9364 glowdog.com 	Glow Dog is the clear-cut leader in reflective products. It makes a wide variety of products that are comprised entirely of reflective fabric (as opposed to products with strips of reflective fabric sewn on them). When wearing the Glow Dog Jacket, the dog's entire body lights up in headlights. Very cool-looking!	Fabric is light-weight but strong. Compared to every other product we reviewed, the leash is very comfortable in the hand.	\$9- \$28
Reflective Dog Vest Ultra Paws Dog Coat Ultra Paws (800) 355-5575 ultrapaws.com 	Vest that adjusts in two places, with a vertical and a horizontal strip of reflective material (¾-inch wide) sewn to it. Coat is fleece-lined, with a water-repellent outer shell. Adjusts (with wide Velcro strips) at the neck and belly; has two strips (¾-inch wide) of reflective material sewn to it	Vest is available in four sizes. Bright orange color improves visibility of dog during the daytime. Coat is available in eight sizes. A nice, warm, simple coat. We wish there was more reflective material on it.	Vest: \$19- \$21 Coat: \$30- \$50
Reflector Collar Sellwood Dog Supply, Gold Paw Series (503) 239-1517 goldpawseries.com 	Simplicity itself: An attractive, strong, light fabric collar with a wide strip of reflective material sewn on the outside. Strong plastic snap-together buckle. May be used as dog's regular collar.	Available in several adjustable sizes and colors.	\$18

