



CENTER FOR
PET SAFETY™

Media Fact Sheet

Who are we?

The Center for Pet Safety is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit research and consumer advocacy organization dedicated to companion animal and consumer safety.

- The Center for Pet Safety (CPS) is an independent safety science entity leading a unique mission for companion animals and their owners.
- Our organization was developed after 8 years of pet product industry and consumer research.

What do we do?

Currently, CPS is focusing on Pet Travel Safety. Using scientific testing and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard specifications, we study pet products and establish criteria and test protocols to measure whether pet safety products provide the protection claimed by advocates and intended by the manufacturer.

- We conduct rigorous crash testing on commonly available pet safety products using realistic, specially designed, crash test dogs.
- Although CPS does not directly impact legislation, our organization advocates for meaningful standards leading to safer products that protect animals and improve travel safety for everyone in the vehicle.
- We do not use live animals in our crash testing.
- We are not affiliated with the pet product industry.
- We do not endorse products.

Why we do what we do?

- Data from our 2011-2015 safety studies tells us that the majority of pet safety devices currently on the market do not provide acceptable levels of protection to pets and/or the humans in a crash situation.
- If a pet travel product fails in an automobile accident, not only can the pet be injured or killed, but the human passengers are also at risk for injury or death.
- In the U.S. there are no performance standards or test protocols for many classes of pet product.
- Manufacturers are not required to test products before going to market for many classes of pet products – including pet travel products!
- There is no oversight agent for the pet product industry outside of the FDA for consumable products and pharmaceuticals.
- Some manufacturers claim to test their products, but with the absence of test standards, these claims cannot be substantiated.

Founded in 2011 by Lindsey A. Wolko, Founder, CEO & Chairman

Lindsey Wolko is available for interviews and presentations, including videos and photographs of tests, as well as compelling statistics on pet travel product safety.

A long-term pet safety advocate, Ms. Wolko led the pet safety mission at Canine Commuter from 2004-2011. During that time she also acted as a consultant for numerous pet product manufacturers on product design, quality, performance, consumer communications and marketing efforts. In 2011, in response to scientific product testing results, she founded the Center for Pet Safety. Ms. Wolko holds a bachelor's degree from George Mason University. She currently leads the product research division of CPS.

Media Contact

Grace Platon
Communicate Grace, LLC
214.901.4744
grace@communicategrace.com



Subaru of America And Center For Pet Safety Studies Showcase Promising And Shocking Crash Test Results Of Pet Crates And Carriers

The 2015 Crate and Carrier Crashworthiness Studies highlight the top pet safety products and bring awareness to vital pet safety measures

CHERRY HILL, NJ – July 24, 2015 – Subaru of America, Inc. and Center for Pet Safety (CPS), a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit research and consumer advocacy organization, announced today the results of the 2015 Crate and Carrier Crashworthiness Studies - a collaborative initiative to examine the effectiveness and safety of pet crates and carriers in the event of a crash. After several eye-opening and informative tests - including instances of complete failure - three top products emerged; CPS has selected the Gunner Kennels G1 Intermediate with 8' Tie Down Straps as the 2015 Top Performing Crate and both the PetEgo Forma Frame Jet Set Carrier with ISOFIX-Latch Connection and Sleepypod Mobile Pet Bed with PPRS Handilock as the 2015 Top Performing Carriers.

The top performers surpassed all competing products in the CPS-designed studies, which included testing of crate connections and rigorous crash testing to examine crate and carrier structural integrity.

In the event of a crash, it is important for pet crates and carriers to contain the dog and prevent the animal from becoming a projectile. It is also important for the containment device to remain fully secured at the connection points. If a pet is unrestrained, or the structural integrity should fail, the dog can potentially strike and injure a human passenger.

“We at Subaru recognize the importance of keeping the entire family safe on the road, including our beloved pets,” said Michael McHale, Subaru's director of corporate communications. “Alongside Center for Pet Safety, we are proud to help lead the charge in identifying the best crates and carriers for pet lovers everywhere, while, more importantly, making pet parents aware of the safety measures they can take and the dangers that can occur if they don't. We recommend that owners choose the right sized crate for their dog, which is generally six inches longer than the body of the dog. We are also pleased that our crossover vehicles, which are award winners themselves for safety, accept most crate and carrier sizes.”

While many crate and carrier manufacturers claim their products are crash-tested and safe for use in a vehicle, there are currently no test protocols or performance standards in the U.S. to substantiate these claims. The data gathered from these studies will assist CPS in formulating these much needed crate and carrier testing and performance standards.

Far and away the most impressive crate tested was the Gunner Kennels G1 Intermediate with 8' Tie Down Straps, a sturdy travel device that was able to withstand the most significant forces generated in CPS testing with a combination of strong structural support and integrity. On the carrier side, the Pet Ego Forma Frame Jet Set Carrier used an innovative ISOFIX-Latch connection, to snap the carrier firmly



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into place and fully contain the test dog throughout the crash test. Lastly, 2013 CPS Harness Crashworthiness Study honoree, Sleepypod, was also recognized in the carrier category for the Sleepypod Mobile Pet Bed with PPRS Handilock, a product that snugly straps into the seat and showed no evidence of damage after crash testing. The full product performance report studies can be found at CenterforPetSafety.org.

“After our findings in 2013, we were eager to continue working to bring accountability to the pet products industry, while highlighting the products that will help improve safety for the entire family during their travels together,” said Lindsey Wolko, Founder and CEO of Center for Pet Safety. “In partnership with Subaru, the 2015 studies were truly eye-opening and will once again help bring pet safety awareness to millions of pet parents around the globe.”

Subaru and CPS again worked with MGA Research Corporation, an independent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) contracted testing laboratory, to conduct rigorous crash testing on leading pet crates and carriers that claimed to be “Tested”, “Crash Tested,” offer “Crash Protection” or claim they are for use in a vehicle. The 2015 Crate and Carrier Crashworthiness Studies were performed using specially-designed crash test dogs, designed to approximate the size and weight of real dogs while providing vital baseline performance data. The partnership continues the work that began in 2013 with CPS’ testing of pet harnesses. The resulting Harness Crashworthiness Study uncovered major differences in performance of popular pet restraints, with many resulting in catastrophic failure that could cause serious injury to both the pet and vehicle passengers.

Based on findings from both the Harness Crashworthiness Study in 2013 and this year’s Crate and Carrier Crashworthiness Studies, Subaru and CPS can offer practical safety tips for pet parents traveling with their four-legged friends. Proper crate sizing is vitally important to ensuring safe travels, as pets should always fit snugly in their crate with just enough room to be comfortable. This will help minimize the risk of pet injury in the case of a sudden stop or accident. It is also imperative that pet owners secure crates and carriers for travel using strength-rated cargo area anchor straps and not elastic or rubber bungee cords. Pets come in all shapes, sizes and personalities, any of which may dictate whether to use a crate, carrier or harness when traveling.

To view the full study results or for more information on how to keep pets safe in vehicles, including best practices and travel tips, please visit CenterforPetSafety.org.

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About the Center for Pet Safety

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Subaru of America Announces Next Round of Pet Safety Product Testing Through Partnership With Center For Pet Safety

Subaru and Center for Pet Safety to raise awareness of vital safety measures for four-legged friends and identify top crates and carriers on the market

CHERRY HILL, NJ – June 4, 2015 – Subaru of America, Inc. today announced its continued support of pet safety and crash testing of pet safety products through its partnership with the Center for Pet Safety (CPS), a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit research and consumer advocacy organization. With 56% of American pet owners traveling with their pets and one in five admitting to traveling with a pet in their lap, Subaru believes in making pet parents aware of safety risks. To help promote the safety of these beloved companions, Subaru will fund CPS's testing of pet crates and small carriers in crash situations. The study, designed by CPS, will include an investigation of crate connection options for pet owners who travel with their pets, as well as examine crate and carrier structural integrity, and gather data necessary to formulate testing and crate performance standards.

The partnership continues the work that began in 2013 with the testing by CPS of pet harnesses. The resulting Harness Crashworthiness Study uncovered major differences in performance of popular pet restraints, with many resulting in catastrophic failure that could cause serious injury to both the pet and vehicle passengers. The goal of the study was to highlight the importance of driving safely with pets and to complete the first formal test protocol and independent ratings guidelines for pet travel harnesses, published by CPS in 2014. Results can be viewed at www.CenterforPetSafety.org; to view video of the crash testing visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2W_AonRlnc.

“We want to make pet parents aware of proper safety measures they can take to help protect their pets. Following the previous study with CPS, we were delighted to support this next stage in testing,” said Michael McHale, Subaru's director of corporate communications. “Pet safety is very important to Subaru as more than half of Subaru drivers are pet owners, with over 69% of them owning at least one dog. We feel a sense of responsibility to inform pet parents of safety measures they can take.”

Subaru and CPS will once again enlist MGA Research Corporation, an independent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) contracted testing laboratory, to conduct rigorous crash testing on commonly available pet safety products using realistic, specially-designed crash test dogs. The results, including a crate sizing guide and best practice for securing pets in vehicles, will be shared later this summer.

“No performance standards or test protocols currently exist in the U.S. for pet crates or carriers, and while many pet safety product manufacturers claim to test their products, they can't be substantiated without uniform test standards and protocols,” said Lindsey Wolko, Center for Pet Safety's founder and CEO. “We are very excited to once again have the support of Subaru, allowing the independent examination of pet crates and carriers. Subaru understands the importance of safety of all passengers including our four-legged friends.”



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Center for Pet Safety Licenses Proprietary Crash Test Dogs to Evaluate Pet Travel Products

Nonprofit Seeks Partnerships to Address Urgent Need for Product Research to Ensure Safety for All Vehicle Occupants

WASHINGTON, DC (May 15, 2013) – [Center for Pet Safety™](#), the nonprofit dedicated to consumer and companion animal safety, today announced that it will allow pet product manufacturers the use of its proprietary, instrumented and weighted crash test and static [dog models](#) for product testing of pet travel products through a licensing agreement.

“The test dogs are expensive yet necessary for manufacturers to gather data and evaluate the real-world, worst case, performance of their products,” said Lindsey Wolko, founder, Center for Pet Safety. “We want to encourage pet product manufacturers to test their harnesses, crates and other travel equipment as part of their efforts to ensure that consumers and their pets are offered effective, measurable protection by these safety devices.”

In its [2011 pilot study](#) of popular dog harnesses, The Center for Pet Safety (CPS), discovered that many pet restraints and other pet travel products are not tested before going to market. The [study revealed](#) an alarming 100 percent failure rate of the tested harnesses and none of the products were deemed safe enough to protect the dog and the humans in the event of an accident. Preliminary crate testing was performed as well, raising additional safety concerns for vehicle occupants.

The Center for Pet Safety is currently partnering with [Subaru of America, Inc.](#) on a landmark pet car safety restraint study. Through [scientific product evaluations](#), they are collecting harness data to support a pet safety restraint standard scheduled for publication later this year. In addition, they plan to identify current, top-performing harness brands.

Wolko continued, “Our work is as much about human safety as it is about pets. If one of these pet safety devices fails in an accident, a human life may be in harm’s way. Our preliminary crate testing has uncovered a serious concern around passenger safety, which is the reason consumers are demanding we expand the harness testing with a crate study. We will offer constructive guidance to consumers to ensure they are as safe as possible until the standards for these products are in place.”

Pet product manufacturers interested in licensing the use of the CPS test model dogs should contact Info@CenterForPetSafety.org or call 800.324.3659 for details.

Corporations, foundations and other nonprofit organizations interested in strategic partnership opportunities with the Center for Pet Safety should reach out to Lindsey Wolko at LWolko@CenterForPetSafety.org or call 800.324.3659.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Grace Platon, Communicate Grace, LLC



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214.901.4744 | Grace@CommunicateGrace.com



STUDY SHOWS MANY PET CAR SAFETY RESTRAINTS TO BE UNSAFE

*Subaru and the Center for Pet Safety Announce Full Study and Crash Testing Results
Sleepypod Clickit Utility Harness Named 2013 Top Performing Harness*

CHERRY HILL, N.J., Oct. 3, 2013 – [Subaru of America, Inc.](#) and the [Center for Pet Safety \(CPS\)](#), announced today the results of a collaborative study to test the effectiveness of pet harnesses marketed with safety claims. Sleepypod’s Clickit Utility Harness has been identified as the 2013 Top Performing Harness. The pet harness study was designed by CPS – a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit research and advocacy organization dedicated to companion animal and consumer safety – to mirror the same crash tests used to measure the effectiveness of child safety products. The crash tests uncovered serious flaws in many of the popular pet restraints currently on the market, with many resulting in catastrophic failure. The goal of this study is to enforce the importance of driving safely with pets. In addition, the performance data will assist in the development of the first harness safety standard and test protocols that will serve as guidelines to the pet products industry.

There are currently no performance standards or test protocols in the U.S. for pet travel products. While many pet car restraint manufacturers claim to test their products, without uniform test standards and protocols, these claims cannot be substantiated. Recognizing the severity of this issue, Subaru teamed up with CPS to conduct this study in order to ultimately allow consumers to select independently tested pet products and help them to identify top performing brands. The Center for Pet Safety is actively working toward publishing a harness standard later this year.

“Safety for all passengers, including our pets, is very important to Subaru and to our drivers. Selecting the wrong harness could be just as detrimental as not using one at all,” said Michael McHale, director of communications at Subaru of America, Inc. “Most pet owners don’t know the dangers of not properly harnessing their pet while in the car. With nearly half of Subaru drivers also being dog owners, we want them to be as informed as possible.”

Subaru and CPS enlisted MGA Research Corporation, an independent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) contracted testing laboratory, to conduct rigorous crash testing on commonly available pet safety harnesses using realistic, specially designed crash test dogs. Testing was performed using multiple, specially designed crash test dogs developed by CPS, including a 25 lb. terrier mix, a 45 lb. border collie and a 75 lb. golden retriever. The life-like dog models provided a realistic representation for testing purposes, similar to the testing conducted for human occupant safety.

“Subaru and CPS share a common love for pets and safety, and it is our mission to communicate to pet owners that an effective harness should keep the pet in place to prevent distraction to the driver as well as offer measurable levels of protection to all passengers in the event of a crash,” said Lindsey Wolko, founder and CEO of the Center for Pet Safety. “I, like many people, consider my dog to be a part of my family, and dogs need to be secured with harnesses that have been tested for safety the same way car



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seats and seat belts that protect our family members have been tested, both for the pet's safety as well as the safety of all passengers."

The overall results of the testing indicated Sleepypod's Clickit Utility Harness as the clear top performing harness brand, as it was the only harness tested to consistently keep a dog from launching off of the seat and the only restraint deemed to offer substantial protection to all passengers, including the dog, in the event of an accident. If a pet launches off of the seat, it can strike a human passenger or risk serious contact injury to the dog from internal structures in the car.

"Sleepypod has been researching and crash testing pet safety restraints in autos for six years because we're serious about safety," said Michael Leung, Sleepypod co-founder and product designer. "We admire CPS and Subaru for conducting this study on behalf of pet owners and use the CPS testing protocols as an extension of our own safety program."

Pet owners may purchase Sleepypod's Clickit Utility Harness on www.sleepypod.com. Subaru will also be offering these harnesses for purchase through its Subaru Gear catalog and at dealers in the near future.

All manufacturers whose products graduated to crash testing in the study were issued courtesy invitations to attend product testing. Those companies that were unable to attend were contacted with their test results, and several companies are already working to make improvements and enhance quality control. To view the full study results please visit www.CenterforPetSafety.org. More information about how to keep pets safe in vehicles can also be found on www.Subaru.com.

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