

# WaterDog Adventure Gear®

## WAG Boarding Steps™

Model HSM-6

### Owner's Manual

U.S. Patent No. 9,815,529



*Read this manual completely and follow instructions prior to use.*

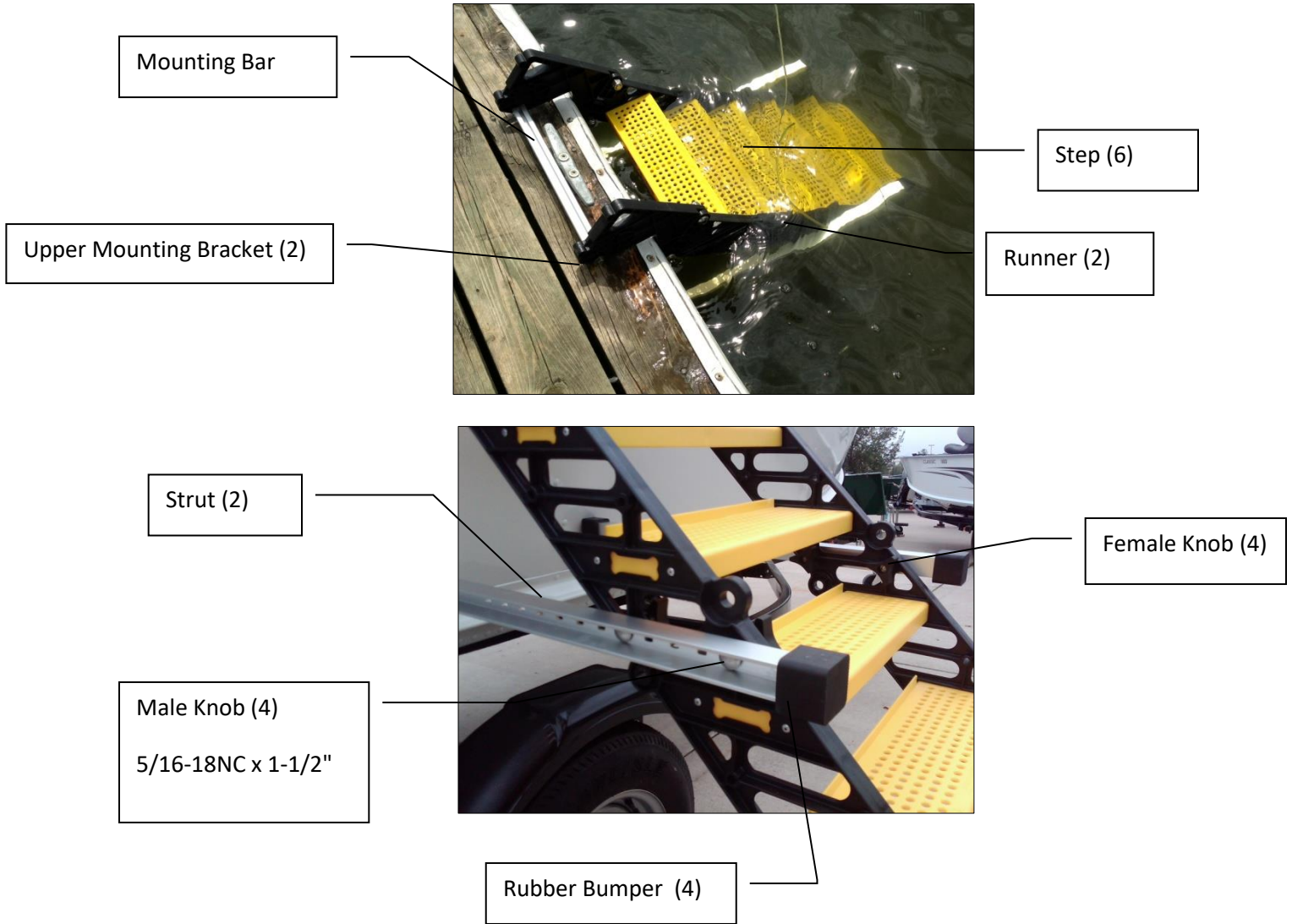
*Improper use may cause injury and/or equipment damage.*

*WAG Boarding Steps have a maximum capacity of 130 pounds and are designed for dog use only.*

Welcome to the WaterDog Adventure Gear® family and thank you for your purchase!

As excited as you and your dog are to begin using your WAG Boarding Steps, there are a few important actions to take prior to use and for safe and enjoyable ongoing ownership.

## Assembly Overview



## Initial Setup Prior to Use (Fitment)

Your new WAG Boarding Steps Model HSM-6 comes fully assembled from the factory and does not require tools to setup or use. Tools may be required to drill mounting holes in the horizontal surface that the unit will be mounted to. For safe and optimum performance, the initial setup (fitment) for your specific application must be performed prior to use. If the installation is on a boat, the initial setup is best done with the boat out of the water to observe fit.

WAG Boarding Steps Model HSM-6 is designed to mount on a horizontal surface. To work effectively, the mounting location should have:

- a flat, clear area at least 6" in from the edge
- a flat, clear area at least 15" wide
- an adjacent vertical surface for the struts to go against (like a dock wall or boat hull)
- a freeboard (distance from horizontal mounting surface to water level) of no more than 16" (less is better for bigger dogs)



**Step 1** - Remove the collapsed assembly from its packaging, stand on end or lay flat and remove both struts by loosening the female knobs and removing the male knobs. Set the struts and hardware aside.

**Step 2** - With one of the struts in hand and the corners of the upper mounting brackets held tight against the edge of the horizontal mounting surface, determine which set of holes in the runner and strut will provide a relatively flat step (unit mounted at approximately 45 degrees) and have the strut contact the vertical wall in a stiff location. (The strut can be flipped as necessary.) Insert the male knobs and tighten the female knobs. Repeat with the other strut.



**Step 3** - Position the corners of the upper mounting brackets against the edge of the horizontal mounting surface and the struts against the vertical wall. Mark the location of the mounting bar on the horizontal surface. The mounting bar can be moved to the adjacent set of holes, if necessary. There should be (1) washer under the head of each shoulder bolt and (2) washers between the bracket and the mounting bar. Make sure all washers are on the shoulder of each bolt. The mounting bar should not have any lateral play, but be able to rotate. Determine the best option for securing the mounting bar to the horizontal surface. Options include clamping or mounting over a set of pegs or a cleat. Mount and ensure all fasteners are secure. Verify the mounting angle and adjust, if necessary. The unit is designed to flex some to accommodate minor irregularities, but verify good contact of the upper mounting brackets and struts prior to use. Congratulations! You have completed the initial setup of WAG Boarding Steps for your boat or dock and are now ready for hours of enjoyment.



## Use/Training

It is highly recommended that you train your dog in shallow water where you can stand to the side as your dog gets used to WAG Boarding Steps. Some dogs may try to wrap their legs around them like a tree trunk or reach up trying to pull themselves up and stick their leg between the steps. Having your dog approach them straight on and spotting them to keep their legs under their chest (like they do stairs at home) the first few times will get them comfortable with this new thing they have never seen before. Once they are used to it, they will learn to come in from the side and do it with large objects in their mouth. Periodically check for damage to the equipment and your boat or dock. Remember, WAG Boarding Steps are for **dog use only**.



## Care and Maintenance

Your new WAG Boarding Steps are constructed from high-quality materials that should provide years of enjoyment.

- All of the fasteners are stainless steel or aluminum. Check for loose or missing fasteners prior to use and tighten or replace as necessary.
- The metal parts are anodized aluminum extrusions which offer excellent stiffness for their weight. Periodically check for bent or cracked parts and replace as necessary.
- The plastic parts are formulated for outdoor use and have good impact resistance. Periodically check for cracked parts and replace as necessary. Remove your step assembly when not in use and store out of direct sunlight for maximum life.
- Floatation material, (4) pieces in each of the top (3) steps, should be replaced immediately if damaged or missing. If your dog's nails tend to push the floatation material out of the pockets, it can be secured with a couple of drops of adhesive.



## Customer Support

For questions regarding your WAG Boarding Steps or to order replacement parts, please contact our toll-free customer support line at:

1-877-**WAG**-2272 (1-877-924-2272)