

MEET THE OWNER
Gary Albert works in northern Michigan with his store dogs, Rosco (left), a papillon; Cosmo (right), a Boston bulldog; and Bode (not pictured), a Labrador retriever-rottweiler mix.



**RUFFWEAR
ROAMER LEASH**

“This flexible bungee leash gives the dog a little extra room to roam and absorbs some of the shock should he decide to pull. For hands-free running, it can be adjusted to go around your waist.” \$35.



**POLKADOG BAKERY
ALASKAN COD CHIPS**

“These puffed, wafer-like treats are filled with protein and omega-3s, which are great for a dog’s skin and coat.” Also available in salmon. \$12.

What’s Selling at the Pet Store?

AT MICHIGAN’S RUFF LIFE PET OUTFITTERS, ACTIVE DOGS ARE THE STARS OF THE SHOW.

After 20 years in the Chicago theater industry, Gary Albert chose to open a business in Petoskey, Michigan, where his dogs could play a part. “Retail is theater,” says Albert. So he set the stage by incorporating industrial elements (like cage lighting and steel accents) and creating a general store-style counter stocked with treats. Many of the Lake Michigan-area residents are avid bikers, hikers, and mushroom hunters, so Ruff Life Pet Outfitters lines its shelves with products that let them bring their dogs anywhere. These are a few of Albert’s favorite finds.

All products shown are available at rufflifepet.com.



SPINDRIFT DOG DISKS

“Made out of the same dry sack material used in river rafting, these fabric disks can withstand even the toughest teeth and will still float and fly.” From \$13.



**HIGHWAVE AUTO
DOG MUG**

“When you squeeze the bottle, the bowl fills up so your dog can hydrate on the go. When you release it, the remaining liquid drains back in. Best of all, it fits in a standard cup holder.” \$15.



**RUFFWEAR FRONT
RANGE HARNESS**

“Attaching a leash to a harness, as opposed to the collar, allows a dog’s body to absorb tension and takes the pressure off his neck. It provides a more comfortable walking experience for both owner and dog.” \$40.

ALBERT AND DOGS: STEVEN M. VORPAGEL; SPINDRIFT DISKS, COURTESY OF SPINDRIFT; AUTO DOG MUG, COURTESY OF HIGH WAVE INC.; ALL OTHER PRODUCTS, COURTESY OF RUFF LIFE OUTFITTERS