CLAIMS

1. An animal containment system for installation in an interior cargo area of a vehicle, the animal containment system comprising:

an animal containment unit configured to contain an animal; and

at least one strap assembly including a first strap extending from the animal containment unit;

wherein the strap assembly includes at least one mounting device configured to engage an exterior portion of the vehicle to restrain movement of the animal containment unit.

2. The animal containment system of claim 1, wherein the strap assembly further includes a strap retractor that allows extension and retraction of the first strap to adjust a length of the first strap.

3. The animal containment system of claim 2, wherein the strap retractor is configured to maintain a length of the first strap when a shock load is applied to the first strap.

4. The animal containment system of claim 1, wherein the first strap is a retractable strap connector.

5. The animal containment system of claim 4, wherein the first strap is biased toward a stowed position within the animal containment unit.

6. The animal containment system of claim 5, wherein the first strap includes a plug configured to sit flush with a panel of the animal containment unit when the first strap is in the stowed position.

7. The animal containment system of claim 1, wherein the mounting device is configured to mount to an exterior anchoring point of the vehicle being at least one of: a vehicle rear door panel, a vehicle door hinge, a vehicle corner panel, a vehicle side panel, a vehicle roof, a vehicle bumper, a vehicle tow hitch component, or a vehicle frame member.

8. The animal containment system of claim 1, wherein the strap assembly is removably attachable to the animal containment unit, whereby the strap assembly can remain mounted to the vehicle when the animal containment unit is removed from the interior cargo area.

9. The animal containment system of claim 1, further comprising at least one movable load leg movably connected to the animal containment unit, the at least one movable load leg adapted to engage a surface of the vehicle;

wherein the movable load leg is movable between a retracted position and an extended position.

10. The animal containment system of claim 9, wherein the at least one movable load leg is adapted to engage a ceiling of the vehicle.

11. The animal containment system of claim 9, wherein the at least one movable load leg is adapted to engage a seatback of a vehicle.

12. An animal containment system for installation in an interior cargo area of a vehicle, the animal containment system comprising:

an animal containment barrier configured to contain an animal within the interior cargo area; and

a strap assembly for securing the animal containment barrier;

wherein the strap assembly includes one or more mounting devices configured to engage an exterior surface of the vehicle.

13. An animal containment system for installation in a vehicle, the animal containment system comprising:

an animal containment unit including a base panel and at least one panel defining a containment volume above the base panel; and

a strap assembly fixed to the animal containment unit, the strap assembly having a first strap extending from the animal containment unit, a second strap configured to extend rearward toward a tailgate of the vehicle, the strap assembly including a distal mounting pod configured to mount to an exterior portion of the vehicle and configured to connect to the second strap;

wherein the strap assembly is configured to shorten the second strap after the distal mounting pod is attached to the vehicle exterior, and

wherein the second strap is configured to pass through a door jamb of the vehicle tailgate when the tailgate is closed.

14. The animal containment system of claim 13, wherein the strap assembly includes a retraction pod located intermediate the distal mounting pod and the animal containment unit.

15. An animal containment system for installation in a cargo area of a vehicle comprising:

an animal containment unit having two or more sidewalls extending from a base panel;

a strap for attaching the animal containment unit to a vehicle; and

a strap mounting assembly on one of the sidewalls, the strap mounting assembly comprising a housing and a buckle insertable into the housing, the buckle movable in the housing from an insertion position to an engaged position;

wherein, in the engaged position, the buckle is rotatable about approximately 180 degrees while the strap is engaged with the vehicle.

16. The animal containment system of claim 15, wherein the buckle includes a protrusion adapted to be received in a tapered slot of the housing.

17. The animal containment system of claim 16, wherein the housing includes a magnet for retaining the protrusion in the engaged position.

18. The animal containment system of claim 17, wherein the housing includes a cover for closing the tapered slot when the protrusion is not received therein, the cover being pivotable and biased towards a closed position.

19. The animal containment system of claim 18, wherein, when the protrusion is inserted in the tapered slot, the cover urges the protrusion towards the engages position of the buckle.

20. The animal containment system of claim 15, further comprising a third panel and a low-friction surface on the third panel, wherein the low-friction surface is engageable with a support surface when the animal containment unit is tilted toward the third panel.

21. The animal containment system of claim 15, further comprising a handle on a first of the two or more sidewalls and at least one wheel on a second of the two or more sidewalls, wherein the at least one wheel is engageable with a support surface when the animal containment unit is lifted via the handle.