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United States Patent Application Publication

20250261613

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 21, 2025

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PRESSURE ACTIVATED RECHARGING COOLING PLATFORM

Abstract

A cooling platform includes an outer layer comprising a cooling composition that absorbs heat when activated and releases heat when deactivated. The cooling composition is activated at least partially by an application of pressure and the cooling composition does not require electricity prior to use.

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Appl. No.: 19/202702

Filed: May 08, 2025

Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18356405 20230721 parent-grant-document US 12310329 child US 19202702

parent US continuation 17540395 20211202 parent-grant-document US 11716965 child US 18356405

parent US continuation 15850700 20171221 parent-grant-document US 11219191 child US 17540395

parent US continuation 14695909 20150424 ABANDONED child US 15850700

parent US continuation 14226393 20140326 parent-grant-document US 9226474 child US 14695909

parent US continuation 12760045 20100414 parent-grant-document US 8720218 child US 14226393

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: A01K1/015 (20060101); A01K1/035 (20060101); F25D3/02 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC A01K1/0158 (20130101); A01K1/0353 (20130101); F25D3/02 (20130101); F25D2303/08 (20130101); F25D2303/085 (20130101)

Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 18/356,405, filed on Jul. 21, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/540,395, filed on Dec. 2, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,716,965, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/850,700, filed on Dec. 21, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,219,191, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/695,909, filed on Apr. 24, 2015, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/226,393, filed on Mar. 26, 2014, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,226,474, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/760,045, filed on Apr. 14, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,720,218. The contents of all related applications are incorporated by reference in their entirety herein.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention relates to temperature controlled platforms, particularly, cooling platforms for animals.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

[0003] Pet beds serve as a place to rest or sleep, for pets such as cats and dogs. Many times, depending on the application, these pet beds are directed towards cooling or heating pets. These beds can be used during post-surgery recovery, dysplasia, or post-chemotherapy. Generally, these pet beds aid in the comfort and safety of the pet.

[0004] Many pet beds are known to have cooling mechanisms. Some pet beds provide a centralized cooling plate with no mechanism to circulate. These pet beds are electrically connected to a power source. Power sources often times fail, negating the “portable” aspect of a product. Further, such systems require heavy and complex equipment, and are not typically portable or user friendly.

[0005] There are other pet beds available which use alternative or “non-electric” means to cool a pet. These pet beds generally use ice packs. However, these ice packs eventually melt and need to be replaced. Accordingly, it is desirable to provide an improved cooling bed for pets.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] The invention is described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0007] FIG. 1 illustrates a top angled perspective of a cooling platform.

[0008] FIG. 2 illustrates a top view of a temperature regulation layer of the cooling platform.

[0009] FIG. 3 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the cooling platform.

[0010] FIG. 4 illustrates a detailed cross-sectional view of the cooling platform.

[0011] FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a channeled covering layer of the cooling

platform.

[0012] FIG. **6** illustrates a detailed cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0013] FIG. **7** illustrates a detailed cross-sectional view of the alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0014] FIG. **8** illustrates a top angled perspective of an alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0015] FIG. **9** illustrates a cross-sectional perspective of the alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0016] FIG. **10** illustrates a cross-sectional perspective of an alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0017] FIG. **11** illustrates a detailed cross-sectional view of the alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0018] FIG. **12** illustrates a cross-sectional perspective of an alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

[0019] FIG. **13** illustrates a detailed cross-sectional view of the alternative embodiment of the cooling platform.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] The present invention is now described with reference to figures where like reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements. While specific configurations and arrangements are discussed, it should be understood that this is done for illustrative purposes only. A person skilled in the relevant art will recognize that other configurations and arrangements can be used without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention

[0021] The invention described herein is multilayered. Each layer, in an embodiment, is bonded to the next layer in some fashion, in that, each layer is comprised of a first and a second side and is bonded to the respective side accordingly. As such, the term “bonded” refers to the joining, adhering, affixing, connecting, attaching, threading or the like, through chemical, mechanical or electrical avenues, of at least two elements of a cooling platform, such that the elements tend to be and remain bonded during normal use conditions of the cooling platform.

[0022] FIG. **1** illustrates a cooling platform **100**. The cooling platform **100** is comprised of a temperature regulation layer **110** (illustrated in FIG. **2**), a support layer **140** (illustrated in FIG. **3**), and a channeled covering layer **150**.

[0023] FIG. **2** illustrates the temperature regulation layer **110** in more detail. The temperature regulation layer **110** is adapted to hold a composition **110A** (illustrated in FIG. **3**) and provides temperature regulation to the cooling platform **100**. The temperature regulation layer **110** has an angled segment **120**, which includes a top side and a bottom side (illustrated FIG. **8** and FIG. **9**). The angled segment **120** is formed by channels **130** and includes a sealed perimeter.

[0024] In an embodiment, and as illustrated in FIG. **2**, the temperature regulation layer **110** includes a plurality of angled segments **120** formed by a plurality of channels **130**. The channels **130** effectively space the top and bottom sides of each angled segment **120** at a predefined distance. In an embodiment, the predefined distance can equal zero, thus completely forming each angled segment **120** and cutting off any interconnection or communication therein.

[0025] In another embodiment, that predefined distance can be measured depending on the object using the cooling platform **100**. In this embodiment, the predefined distance allows for interconnection between the angled segments **120** of the composition **110A** (including pressure portions **110B** as seen in FIG. **6** and FIG. **7**). In this embodiment, the interconnection would apply to those angled segments **120** within the perimeter of the temperature regulation layer **110**, as the perimeter is sealed.

[0026] The cooling platform **100** is adapted to provide cooling to a wide variety of objects. As used herein, the term “object” can mean a variety of things including but not limited to domestic

animals, such as cats and dogs. The use of the cooling platform **100** can extend to human use in vehicles or similar circumstances calling for such regulation. Generally, the cooling platform **100** can be used for anything that needs or requires either heat, cool or temperature regulation.

[0027] FIG. **3** and FIG. **4** illustrate a cross-section of the cooling platform **100**, which includes the support layer **140**. The support layer **140** is substantially bonded to the bottom side of the temperature regulation layer **110**. The support layer **140** comprised of material sufficiently pliable to deform and sufficiently rigid to withstand collapse in response to the weight of the object.

[0028] In an embodiment, the support layer **140** can be made from polyurethane foam, elastomer foam, memory foam, or other suitable material. In another embodiment, the support layer **140** is made of an orthopedic foam, of a consistency designed to protect joints and provide appropriate support to the skeletal system.

[0029] In an embodiment, the support layer **140** can include soft, pliable, and removable stuffing material to provide cushioning, allowing a user to establish the firmness or softness desired. Such material can include synthetic pillow stuffing such as polyester filling, or can include feathers such as goose or duck down. As a further embodiment, the support layer **140** can include a combination of dense foam and softer pillow stuffing. It is contemplated that different types of cushioning can be utilized for different types, sizes, and weight of objects.

[0030] FIG. **3** and FIG. **4** further illustrate the composition **110A** within the temperature regulation layer **110**. The composition **110A** serves to control the temperature of the cooling platform **100**. The cooling platform **100** can handle a range of different temperatures depending on the object in use. This can mean that the composition **110A** can encompass a variety of cooling and heating compounds.

[0031] In an embodiment, the composition **110A** can be activated by a wide variety of means, e.g., the addition of water. In this embodiment, the composition **110A** can include ammonium nitrate and distilled water.

[0032] In another embodiment, the composition **110A** can be activated by pressure, wherein the pressure of an object sitting on the cooling platform **100** activates the composition **110A**, triggering an endothermic process and subsequent cooling. Upon the release of that pressure, the composition **110A** undergoes a subsequent recharge, essentially the reverse of the initial reaction. The above is consistent with Le Chatelier's principle, in that, the reaction reverses upon the application or absence of pressure. In this embodiment, the composition **110A** is comprised of: thirty percent carboxymethyl cellulose; twenty percent water; thirty-five percent polyacrylamide; and at least fifteen percent alginic acid. The aforementioned composition **110A** also provides a cooling effect for an increased duration over other known compositions.

[0033] FIG. **5** illustrates a cross-section of the channeled covering layer **150**. The channeled covering layer **150** can encompass both the support **140** and temperature regulation layers **110**. The channeled covering layer **150** can comprise a piece of fabric or netting, which can include, but is not limited to, plastic, nylon or cloth netting, or a micro-fiber material with a waterproof layer.

[0034] The fabric or netting can allow circulated air to penetrate and escape to the surface, effectuating the cooling process. The fabric or netting can be air tight or resistant to air penetration, to provide indirect cooling. In another embodiment, the channeled covering layer **150** can be made of a firm material, such as plastic, which retains its shape when sat upon by an object. Additionally, the channeled covering layer **150** can include padding to provide a comfortable seating surface.

[0035] In an embodiment, the channeled covering layer **150** can be easily removed via a bottom and/or zipper or any other similar means attached thereto. The channeled covering layer **150** can be made of material such that it can be easily replaced with a different top portion made of another material (and/or having different thickness) as desired. Further, in an embodiment, the channeled covering layer **150** can contain antibacterial, stain resistant, chew resistant, and/or anti flea materials.

[0036] FIG. **6** and FIG. **7** illustrate an alternative embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment,

the temperature regulation layer **110** includes a pressure portion **110B**. The pressure portion **110B** allows for the ability to increase or decrease the firmness of the temperature regulation layer **110** and thus the cooling platform **100** by the addition of gases such as oxygen. This feature can be predetermined or varied as set forth below.

[0037] In an embodiment, the pressure portion **110B** can include a means for inflating or deflating **115** the pressure portion **110B** and the temperature regulation layer **110**. The means for inflating and deflating **115** can include a variety of structures designed for air intake and out take. Often, the structures involved in such means include a protruding valve stem and a cap. The valve stem can be connected or coupled with a threaded portion for attachment to a mechanical or electrical pump, or can be comprised of a plastic valve allowing for human pressure inflation.

[0038] In an embodiment, the means for inflating or deflating can interconnect the pressure portions **110B** held within the plurality of angled segments **120**. In another embodiment, each pressure portion **110B** can be provided for individually within each angled segment **120** at either a fixed pressure or established using the above mentioned interconnected means.

[0039] FIG. **8** and FIG. **9** illustrate an alternative embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the temperature regulation layer **110** is adapted to hold a composition **110A** in a single angled segment **120**. Therefore, the temperature regulation layer **110** becomes the single angled segment **120**. The perimeter of the angled segment **120**, which includes a top side and a bottom side, is sealed preventing the composition **110A** from leaking.

[0040] FIGS. **10** and **11** illustrate another alternative embodiment of the invention. In this particular embodiment, the temperature regulation layer **110/120** is adapted to hold the composition **110A**. In this embodiment, the temperature regulation layer **110/120** has an angled segment **120** formed as described herein. However, this embodiment does not include the channeled covering layer **150** as well as support layer **140**.

[0041] FIGS. **12** and **13** illustrate another embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the temperature regulation layer **110** adapted to hold the composition **110A**, has a plurality of angled segments **120**. And as already described herein, the angled segments **120** are formed by a top side and a bottom side at a predefined distance, and by channels **130**. In an embodiment, the channels **130** may completely segment the plurality of angled segments **120**.

[0042] As mentioned in conjunction with the channeled covering layer **150**, the temperature regulation layer **110** may be comprised of similar materials making up the channeled covering layer **150**. The temperature regulation layer **110**, in an embodiment, may also be plastic or of similar material, and in another embodiment be such that the composition **110A** is viewable through clear material.

[0043] In use, the cooling platform **100** is able to regulate the temperate of an object. The object contacts the channeled covering layer **150** exerting pressure over the cooling platform **100**. The support layer **140** is designed to be sufficiently pliable to deform and sufficiently rigid to withstand collapse in response to the weight of the object. As stated herein, the support layer **140** can be comprised of a wide variety of components.

[0044] Depending on the composition **110A** used, the temperature regulation layer **110** transfers heat from the object. In further effectuating heat transfer, the channels **130** have at least two advantages. First, the channels **130** are designed to mix air with the cooling process between the object and the channeled covering layer **150**. Second, the channels **130** substantially prevent or minimize the composition **110A** from being pushed out of the angled segment **120**. Obviously, in other embodiments presented herein, the angled segments **120** can be completely segmented, fully preventing such an issue. The channeled covering layer **150** also aids in effectuating heat transfer from the object by its composition of channels. Of course, the degree of such aid depends in large part on the type of material used with the cooling platform **100**.

[0045] In adjusting to accommodate the object, the pressure portions **110B** are used. As stated above, the pressure portions **110B** can be individual and predetermined or variable and

interconnected. Thus, the interconnected pressure portions **110B** can be varied through the means for inflating and deflating **115**. Also, as stated herein, the channeled covering layer **150** can provide a degree of comfort and firmness depending on the material used, lending to the overall versatility of the cooling platform **100**.

[0046] The invention contains a large amount of advantages. An advantage of the invention is the composition **110A**. The composition **110A** is able to be re-used without the need for electricity, refrigeration, additional treatments, or extraneous equipment. The advantage stems from the components within the composition **110A**, which effectively keep a temperature of 3-4 degrees Fahrenheit lower than body temperature. This particular composition **110A** is able to recharge after the alleviation of pressure (after the object moves). This particular advantage further allows for low-cost and eco-friendly solutions to temperature regulating and aids in the “mobility” aspect of the invention by not requiring input from other sources and by virtue of being a non-toxic substance.

[0047] Another advantage of the invention is the unique design. The design enhances and optimizes the cooling performance. The channels **130** allow for a mixture of air flow between the object and the cooling platform **100**, effectively cooling the object at a quicker rate. Furthermore, the presence of the predefined distance from the top and bottom of the angled segment **120**, essentially prevents the dispersion of the composition **110A** from the pressure the object exerts on the cooling platform **100**. The overall effect increases the rate of cooling on the targeted object.

[0048] Another advantage of the invention is the interconnected pressure portions **110B**. The pressure portions **110B** provide the ability to increase or decrease the overall pressure of the cooling platform **100**. This feature is particularly advantageous given the large variation in object weight.

[0049] While certain exemplary embodiments have been described and shown in the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that such embodiments are merely illustrative and not restrictive of the current invention, and that this invention is not restricted to the specific constructions and arrangements shown and described since modification can occur to those ordinarily skilled in the art.

Claims

1. A cooling platform comprising: an outer layer comprising a cooling composition that absorbs heat when activated and releases heat when deactivated; wherein the cooling composition is activated at least partially by an application of pressure; and wherein the cooling composition does not require electricity prior to use.
2. The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, wherein the cooling composition does not require refrigeration prior to use.
3. The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, wherein the cooling platform is repeatedly activatable and deactivatable.
4. The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support layer positioned in supporting contact with the outer layer.
5. The cooling platform as recited in claim 4, wherein the support layer comprises an elastic material that deforms and reforms upon the application and release of pressure, respectively.
6. The cooling platform as recited in claim 5, wherein the elastic material includes a foam.
7. The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, further comprising a covering layer, wherein the covering layer at least partially encompasses the outer layer.
8. The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, wherein the cooling composition includes polyacrylamide.
9. The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, wherein the cooling composition includes alginic acid.

- 10.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer layer includes a top side and a bottom side.
 - 11.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 10, wherein the cooling composition is between the top side and the bottom side.
 - 12.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 11, wherein the outer layer further includes at least one angled segment, at least one channel, and a sealed perimeter.
 - 13.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 11, further comprising a support layer that is bonded to the bottom side.
 - 14.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 13, wherein the support layer includes a foam.
 - 15.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the cooling composition is viewable through the outer layer.
 - 16.** A cooling platform comprising: an outer layer; and a cooling composition contained inside the outer layer and configured to absorb heat when activated and release heat when deactivated; wherein the cooling composition activates at least in part upon an application of pressure and undergoes a recharge upon a release of the pressure; and wherein the cooling composition does not require electricity prior to use.
 - 17.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 16, further comprising a support layer, wherein the support layer comprises an elastic material that deforms and reforms upon the application and release of pressure, respectively.
 - 18.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 17, wherein the elastic material includes a foam.
 - 19.** The cooling platform as recited in claim 16, wherein the cooling composition does not require refrigeration or freezing prior to use.
 - 20.** A cooling platform comprising: an outer layer including a top side and a bottom side; a cooling composition between the top side and the bottom side; wherein the cooling composition does not require electricity prior to use; wherein the cooling composition undergoes an endothermic reaction upon activation to absorb heat; wherein the endothermic reaction is activated at least partially by an application of pressure; wherein the cooling composition undergoes an exothermic reaction upon deactivation to release heat; wherein the exothermic reaction is achieved at least in part by removing the pressure; and wherein the cooling platform is repeatedly activatable and deactivatable.
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