

How to measure for your BAH or MSH harness:

2020 R1 KB

We require specific measurements to make your harness, along with your dog's weight, breed and age. Your harness maker will use this information to make your harness customized for your dog. The included diagrams, photos, and written descriptions will help you gather accurate information.

A helpful measuring video may be found on our website at bld.pet/measuring.

Provide all measurements at the time of your order—you can call us, order online, or email us directly. Please note that delays in receiving complete & accurate order information will affect the turnaround time of your harness order, as we cannot start on the harness without these important details.

The harness specialists at BLD will review all of the details and will contact you if we have questions about your order or measurements. We may make recommendations based on the information you provide. Please accept our experience and suggestions for the most functional equipment options.

Don't panic, we're here to help! Really, don't worry—the straps are adjustable and we'll be sure you get a perfect fit.

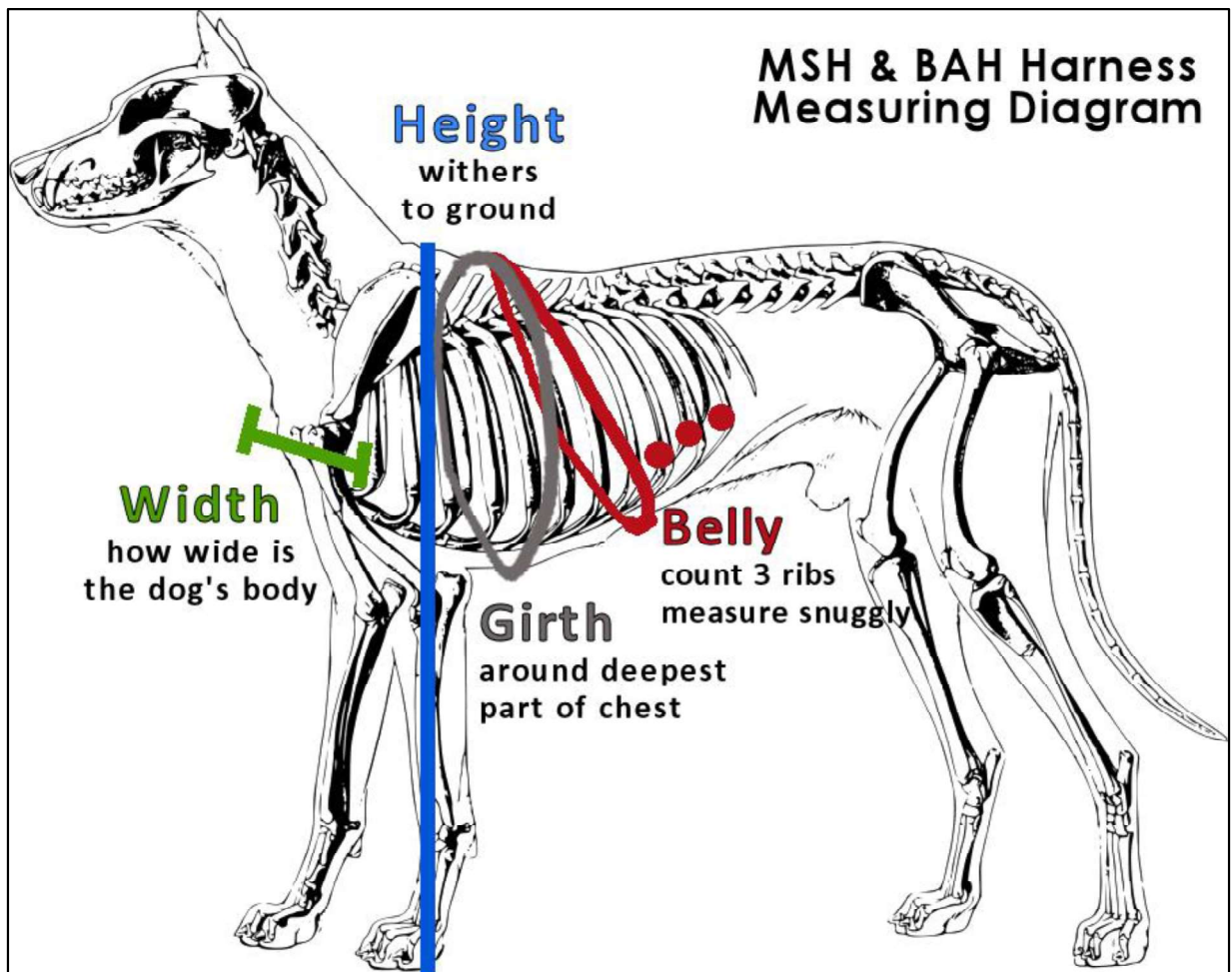
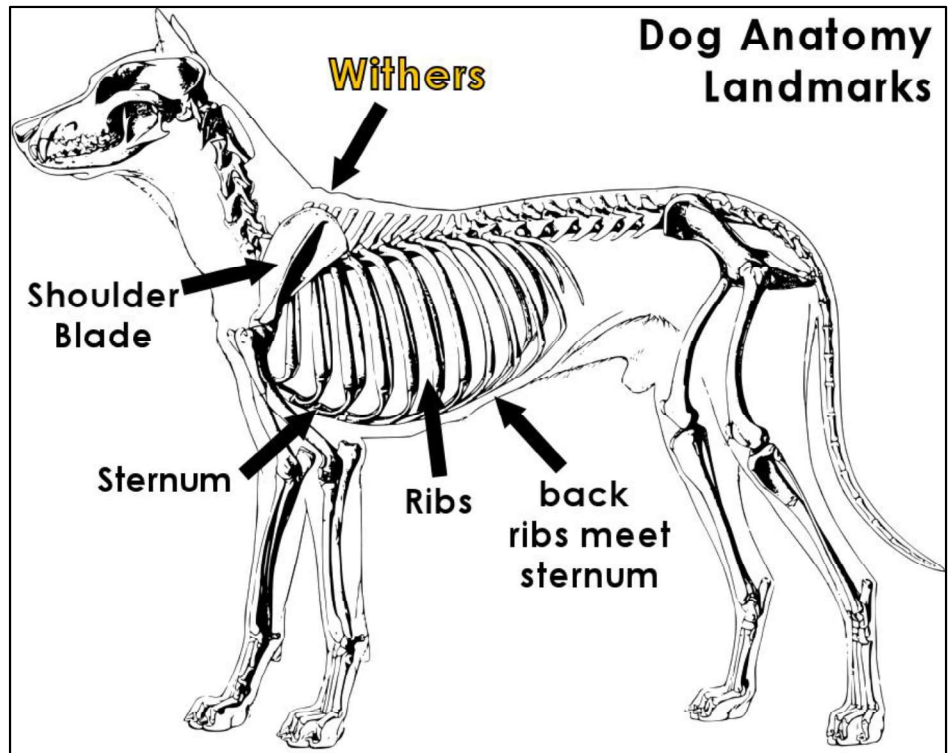
Tips & Hints

- Measure the dog according to the diagrams, photos and directions provided.
- There's a worksheet on the back page to keep track of the measurements and any questions remaining after reading this packet.
- The dog and user do NOT have to be together to measure for these harnesses.
- Measure the harness user to determine the correct handle height. It's very important the handle(s) fit the person; please don't guess the handle height.
- **Take each measurement 2 or 3 times for accuracy.** Each time may give you different results; this is normal, don't panic. Try again and average the numbers.
- **Measuring tools:** A cloth/tailor's measuring tape is ideal because it is flexible. If you don't have one, use a string for measuring around your dog's body and then measure the string against a measuring tape or yard stick. Use a flat ruler for the width.
- If your dog is nervous with a measuring tape, try using a leash around their body, then measure the leash separately.
- **You may want a friend to help you.** No helper? **Smear something tasty on a paper plate and tape it to the wall** at the dog's eye level to keep him occupied while you measure him.
- For the dog's height and person's wrist/hand measurements, you can **tape a piece of paper to the wall** to mark the height. Then measure from that mark to the ground.



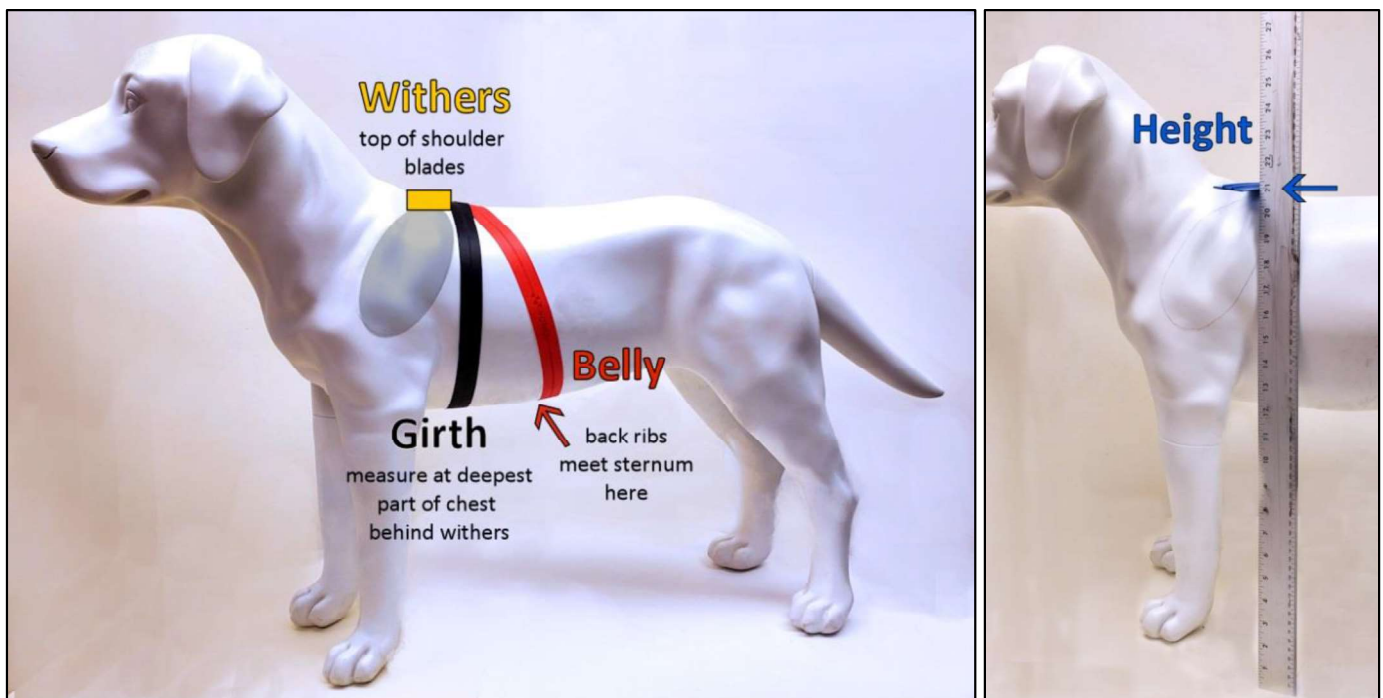
BAH & MSH Measuring Instructions

Watch a video: bld.pet/measuring



Measure the dog:

- **First, get out the very best treats** you have, perhaps cheese, ham, or peanut butter! This is a great opportunity to have a helper bait your dog with a fistful of soft treats to keep your dog focused on trying to lick the food.
- **Have the dog stand square and balanced when taking all measurements.** (No sitting or lying down.) Keep the measuring tape snug.
- **Start by finding your dog's withers**, marked in yellow on the photos.. The withers are the top of the shoulder blades (indicated with a grey oval). The bones can be felt over the dog's legs and shoulders, just below the dog's neck.
- **Next, locate what we at BLD call the "sweet spot,"** this is where the dog's back begins. It is immediately behind the withers. Feel the withers, and palpate (use your fingers to probe) as you move down the dog's back (just an inch or two) to feel for a bit of a dip in the dog's spine. It is important that the girth and belly measurement are taken at this spot because this is where the harness saddle will sit on your dog.
- In the photo below, the "sweet spot" is where the girth and belly guides meet just behind the withers.



1) Measure **Height** from withers to the floor

- This measurement should be a **straight, vertical line from the top of the shoulders to the ground**. If using a flexible measuring tape, **do not bend** the tape over the dog.
- Place a book or other flat object across the shoulders if you need. We use a blue ruler in the photos. Additionally, you can ask your dog to stand next to a wall and mark his height on the paper taped to the wall (as shown in the photo on p. 21).

2) Measure the **Girth**

- This measurement goes around your dog's ribs, behind the front legs, at the deepest part of his chest. Start the measuring at the "sweet spot" behind the withers, go down under the deepest part of the dog's chest, and back to the top.
- The measuring tape should be mostly vertical, forming a complete circle around the dog's chest. **Measure snugly** but don't squish your dog. (With long haired dogs, be sure your measuring the dog's body, not just their floof!)

3) Measure the **Belly**

- Similar to the girth, the belly is measured all the way around the dog's ribs/chest, but the bottom of tape measure will be **further back under the dog's ribs**, at a **diagonal** angle.
- First, locate the spot under your dog's belly where his/her ribs come together and join the sternum (indicated in red on the diagram on p. 22, and the photo on p. 23). Feel the dog's side and find the back of his ribcage, then count 3-4 ribs forward. Follow this rib down and palpate to find the notch where the deep part of his chest curves up toward the belly (flanks).
- **Bring the measuring tape under this point of the dog's ribs, and pull the tape up and forward to the "sweet spot."** The measuring tape must be snug. The measure will be at a diagonal angle.
- **Pro Tip:** put the measuring tape under your dog and "see-saw" it back and forth while pulling forward toward the withers—this settles the tape nicely under the belly, and then bring both sides of the tape to the "sweet spot."
- Avoid measuring vertically around the dog's waist, or place the measuring tape so far back it reaches the dog's flanks—both will yield inaccurate measurements. Usually, the belly and girth measurement are within 3 inches of each other. Remember, we will let you know if anything doesn't look right!
- Some boxy and/or long bodied dogs may not have a clearly defined tuck, just try your best!

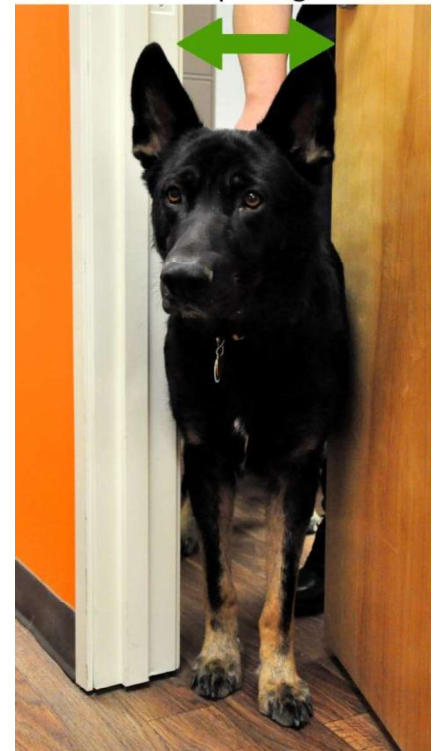


Pro Tip:

Have dog stand in a doorway, with door and door jam touching his sides. Measure the opening.

4) Measure the dog's **Width**

- There are two ways to measure the dog's width. Both are best with a regular flat ruler.
- This is an important measurement; the handle(s) will be made based on how wide your dog is, so take this measurement multiple times to find the average.
- **Bird's Eye View method:** This method works well with dogs that have heavy muscling in the shoulders and short coats. Stand directly above your dog, looking straight down over his body. If you touch one hand to each side of his ribs, how far apart are your hands?
- **Doorway method:** Have your dog squeeze through a doorway and stop when his shoulders are just past the doorjamb; **measure the width of the door opening at the dog's ribcage**. Be sure the door and doorjamb touch the dog. This works well with a sliding door, and a fistful of tasty treats.



Measure for the handle:

Now it's time to measure the person who will use the harness to determine the handle size. Measure the hand that will primarily be used on the harness (most dogs work on the person's left side, with left hand on the handle). Please take each measurement 2-3 times for accuracy.

Use the harness worksheet on the following page to calculate your handle height.

This is best done with a helper who can assure you're standing naturally and measure for you so you don't have to bend over.

No Helper? No problem! Tape a piece of paper to a wall. Stand with your shoulder touching the wall. Use a pencil to mark the paper at your **hand** and **wrist** heights as described below. Then, measure the wall from the ground to the marks.

A: Wrist to ground:

For MSH rigid metal support handle. Ideally, the top of a rigid handle aligns with your wrist joint when your arm is relaxed at your side—this is similar to how a cane or walking stick is measured.

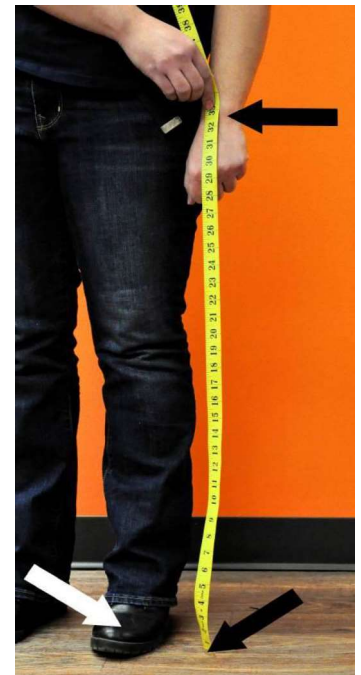
1. **Stand while wearing normal shoes.**
2. Be sure you are balanced and comfortable. Are you standing up straight? No slouching! Steady yourself with a cane if you need.
3. **Allow arm to hang naturally** at your side. (Don't bend or straighten your arm, just be relaxed.)
4. **Measure from the bend in the wrist to the floor.**
5. Repeat! Move around, shake out your arm. Stand up straight, relax the shoulders, and measure again.

B: Hand to ground:

For all leather handle options

1. **Stand while wearing normal shoes.**
2. Be sure you are balanced and comfortable. Are you standing up straight? No slouching! Steady yourself with a cane if you need.
3. Hold a pencil in your hand (or similar object to represent a handle) clutching it the way you wish to hold the harness handle.
6. **Allow your arm to relax.** Let your elbow relax naturally as you hold the pencil comfortably. (Don't bend or straighten your arm.)
4. **Measure from the pencil to the floor.**
5. Repeat! Move around, shake out your arm and measure a few times for accuracy.

Pro Tip: Ordering a leather handle? For flexible or semi-rigid leather handles, it's best if you can determine how you want to hold the handle. For example: Will you grasp the handle in a closed fist? Or will your fingers be curled around the handle in a more relaxed way? Will you keep firm tension on the handle, or keep a looser grip? When you do measurement B, hold something in your hand the way you will hold your harness handle and measure to the floor. Not sure? That's okay, these instructions will give us the info we need regardless.



MSH or BAH

Custom Service Dog Harness

by Bold Lead Designs, LLC

Call: 303-856-3012 (US Mountain Time zone)

Email: orders@boldleaddesigns.com

Website: www.BoldLeadDesigns.com

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My Harness Worksheet

Questions to ask BLD:

Dog's Measurement worksheet:

Dog's Name _____

Breed _____

Sex _____ Age* _____

Weight _____

1) Height _____

2) Girth _____

3) Belly _____

4) Width _____

Notes on what I'd like to order:

Handle Measurement worksheet:

Person's name _____

Child who will grow? Check if yes ☐

Wrist measurement A: _____

Minus dog's height: - _____

Handle height/length A: = _____

If the dog is taller than the person's wrist, order a 2-4" handle.

Hand measurement B: _____

Minus dog's height: - _____

Handle height/length B: = _____

If the person's palm can touch the dog's back while standing & relaxed order a 3" handle.

* Remember dogs must be mature and sound. See important notes on page 2
2020 R1 KB.