

Guide to BLD's Leather Handles

for Balance Assistance Harness ([BAH](#))

& Mobility Support Harness ([MSH](#))

by Bold Lead Designs



This guide shows all leather handles available for both the BAH and MSH harnesses. Please see pages 4-5 for measuring instructions.

Balance Handle

BAH

This leather handle is positioned vertically on the harness. It is stabilized to provide excellent feedback and communication with your dog. Previously called the "Stabilized Detachable Handle."

Mounts low on the harness saddle with quick-release buckles, and is kept upright with heavy-duty O-rings. Folds flat by unclipping the quick-release buckles and pivoting back. (A brace strap may be added to stabilize the handle loop, depending on the height of your handle, shown at right.) This flexible handle will soften and slump over time. Good for counterbalance, and light momentum while walking.

Available as a **flexible** handle made with two layers of soft yet sturdy leather or **semi-rigid** which is reinforced for a firmer feel and increased feedback. A semi-rigid Balance Handle will hold its form and **stand upright**, making it accessible for grasping without bending over.

[BAH ONLY, harness must have 5/8" quick-release buckles]

- ☐ A) Flexible Balance Handle
- ☐ B) Semi-Rigid Balance Handle



Balance Handle
A) Flexible
B) Semi-Rigid

Clip-on Balance Handle

BAH

Minimal and low profile option **clips onto O-rings** toward the top of the harness saddle. Previously called the "Detachable Handle."

Handle lays down when you let go of it. Ideal for a short grab-handle (3-4"). Good for counterbalance, getting up from a seated position, or for occasional momentum assistance.

[BAH ONLY]

Notes: Not recommended with Balance Handles.

- ☐ C) Flexible Clip-on Balance Handle



C) Clip-On Handle

Support Pull Handle

BAH or MSH

This is our most popular leather handle!

Designed for heavier momentum and pulling needs. Attaches to lower D-rings with spring snaps. "Mouse ear" loops keep the handle in position at a slight angle back. Ideal for those who need moderate gait stabilization or a sturdy momentum-pull. Available as a flexible handle or semi-rigid which is reinforced for a sturdier feel.

[Harness must have support D-rings located low on the harness saddle, mouse ears required]

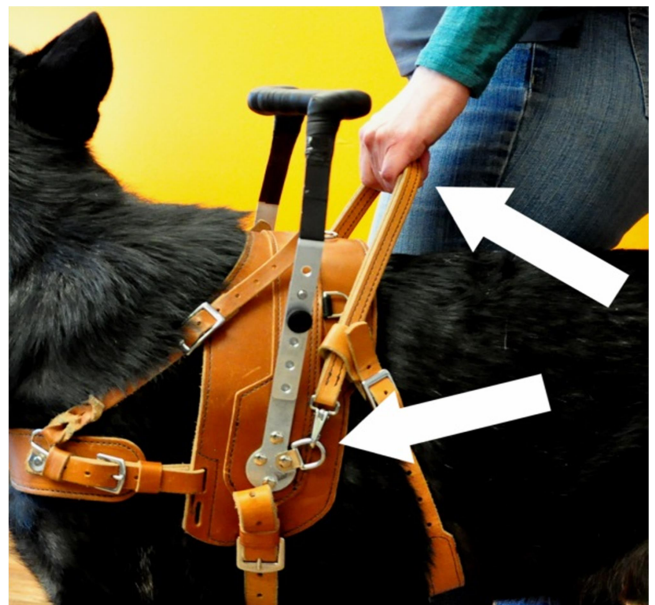
Notes: XL size harnesses must already have mouse ears. Standard size harnesses can be retrofit with mouse ears if needed. Not compatible with guide handles (redundant and awkward).

Support Pull Handles 15" or longer require a custom sleeve to stabilize the handle at an additional cost.

- ☐ D) Flexible Support Pull Handle
- ☐ E) Semi-Rigid Support Pull Handle



Support Pull Handle
D) Flexible
E) Semi-Rigid



Leather Guide Handle

BAH or MSH

Leather **Guide Handles** are for light-duty leading/guiding. Attaches to the front edge of the harness, and angles back. Mounts to the front portion of the harness saddle with 5/8" quick-release buckles and is stabilized with Velcro on the accessory D-rings. Available as a flexible handle, or semi-rigid which is reinforced for a sturdier feel.

The leather guide handle is an older version; we generally recommend the Support Pull Handle.

[This handle can be retrofit onto most harnesses. Guide handle mounts can be added if needed.]

Notes: Not compatible with Support Pull handles (redundant and awkward). Not compatible on MSH's with Pull-Rings (handle may break the pull-rings). Must be used with the Velcro stabilizers; handles need 4 points of contact with the harness to function properly.

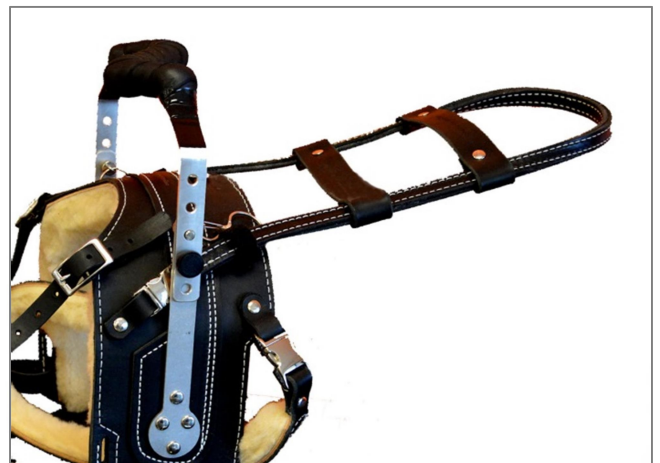
- ☐ **F) Flexible leather Guide Handle**
- ☐ **G) Semi-Rigid leather Guide Handle**



Leather Guide Handle

F) Flexible

G) Semi-Rigid



Do you need a NEW or REPLACEMENT leather handle?

Have a harness that fits your dog and a handle that is not the right size?



Basic handle replacement:

- Tell us why the original handle is not right. (Too short? Too long? New dog? New user?)
- Do you know how much taller/shorter you would like your handle to be? Simply tell us! For example, you might say “I would like a new handle 2 inches taller.”
- We’ll ask you to do a quick measurement of the handle’s actual height while your dog is wearing the harness. This will help us verify exactly what you need, and we’ll take it from there. Please see the information below for measuring instructions.

Ordering a new leather handle and/or starting from scratch:

- For those with a harness fit to your dog who want to start fresh, please see the next page for instructions

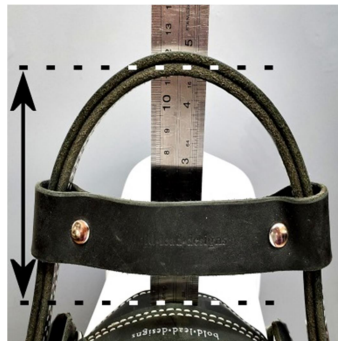
How BLD measures leather handles:

We measure handles from the top of the saddle to the handle grip. The ruler must start on at the base of the top-center D-ring and align with the handle angle. Please keep in mind the dog’s width affects the actual handle size. (Note that the top of the saddle is approximately even with the dog’s withers when the harness is fit properly.)

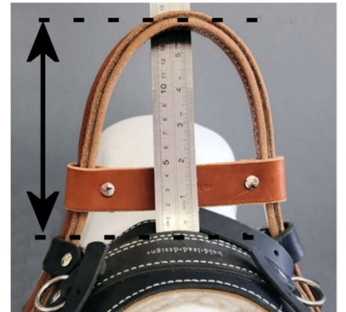
The vertical Balance Handle on a BAH is measured nearly straight up and down, whereas the support handle on either the BAH or MSH is measured with the ruler angled back at a diagonal. This gives us the most accurate information because it matches the natural alignment of the handle from the mounting attachment to the grip. See the illustrations below.



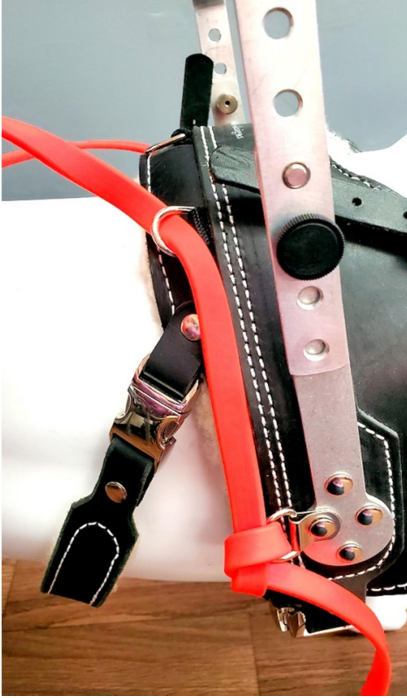
Balance Handle for BAH



Support Pull Handle for BAH & MSH



Measuring for a new leather handle with harness fit to your dog:



A: Support Pull for BAH & MSH



If you have your harness fit to your dog, this is our favorite method to figure out the right height/length for your new leather handle. You can “try out” how you’d like your new handle to feel in your hand and then measure what works for you.

1. Take an **old leash or a rope** and run it through the accessory d-rings on the top of your harness – use the left and right Dees. (If your harness has mouse ear loops on the D-rings, simply put the rope through the leather loop.) The above photos illustrate an orange leash. Tie the rope to the Dees, we use the lower Support-D-rings in the photos above.
2. Hold the rope as you wish to use the new handle. **Pull against it a little as if you were using your new handle**—your dog’s weight will act as an anchor. Adjust the rope until you find the position that feels best for both your hand and balance.
3. Measure from the base of the center D-ring (see top right photo) to your grip. (Be sure the measuring tape is at the same angle as the handle.)
 - a. For a **Support Pull** handle, measure at a slight angle as shown in picture A. This handle will be 8.5 inches long.
 - b. For a BAH **Balance Handle**, measure straight up (vertical), as shown in picture B. This handle will be 7 inches long.



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