

# Replacement Rigid Support Handle

## For BLD's Mobility Support Harness



### Rigid Metal Support Handle:

Height is the distance between the top of the harness saddle and the top of the handlebar. Select the handle size based on your measurements, or indicate desired size.

#### Available handle heights:

- 2-4"
- 3-6"
- 6.5-8.5"
- 9-11" TALL\*

Tall handles will only fit on harnesses made to accommodate the tall handle. Support Bars on harness saddle MUST be ¼" thick.

*\*Applies more torque and pressure to dog than shorter handles. See MSH information booklet for complete details*



NOTE: Support Handle and adjustment range is approximate; exact dimensions and availability depend on the harness saddle size and dog's width.

### Support Handle grip style: select one

- Straight Grip**  
Standard handle grip is ambidextrous. Your hand and elbow will be poisoned directly over the dog's body, with your palm facing back.
- Left Hand Ergonomic Grip (add \$50)**
- Right Hand Ergonomic Grip (add \$50)**  
*Highly recommended!*  
Z-shaped handle grip allows for more natural hand and arm position. Allows your arm and elbow to relax in toward your body, while your hand remains centered over the dog. Ergo grip is comfortable and balanced for most people, especially those with hand/wrist/shoulder mobility issues.



## How to measure your dog and harness for the handle width:

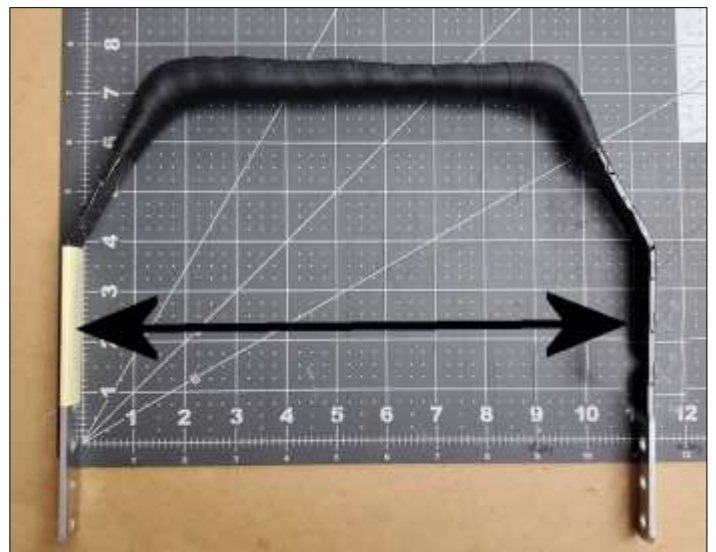
Measure your dog's **width** while wearing the harness

- Dress your dog in the harness (this is the easiest way to measure since you have the harness)
- Remove the support handle from your harness
- **Lay a ruler across your dog's harness to measure the distance to the outside of the support bars, as shown in photo**
- Be sure the support bars on the saddle are parallel to each other (both pointing straight up, not tilting in or out)
- See arrow on picture below: this dog needs a 10 inch wide handle



## How to check if your handle is the right size for your dog:

- Measure the harness on your dog as described above
- Lay your handle flat on a table
- First, check to see that the bars are straight and parallel (minor variance can be bent by hand to square-up the handle)
- **Next, and measure the distance between the inside of the handlebars**
- See arrow on picture at right: this support handle is 11 inches wide
- If your existing handle width is within a half inch (1/2" / 1.5 cm) of the dog's measurement, it is the correct size
- In the example shown here, the handle is too wide for the harness shown above and will not fit correctly



## How to measure for handle height:

**Skip this page if you already know the handle height you need.** If you do not know, please measure.

Ideally, the top of a rigid support 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.

Handle height is the difference between the person's wrist and the dog's withers.

If your dog is equal to or taller than your wrist measurement, select the 2-4" handle size.



## Measure the person:

1. **Stand while wearing normal shoes.**
2. Be sure you are balanced and comfortable. Are you standing up straight? No slouching! Relax your shoulders. 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 your wrist to the floor.**
5. **Repeat!** Move around, shake out your arm. Stand up straight, relax the shoulders, and measure again.

**Alone with no helper?** Try this: Tape a piece of paper to the wall at hand height. Stand relaxed and balanced as above with your shoulder touching the wall. Use a pencil to mark the paper at the **hand** and **wrist** heights. Then, measure the wall from the ground to the marks.



## Measure the dog:

- 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.







### **Wiggly dog? Try this pro tip:**

- 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.