

Balance Assistance & Mobility Support Harness Bargain Sale

This is your chance to get ready-made, quality, functional BLD gear without paying the custom-made prices.

We have gathered assorted harnesses and components that may have various flaws or cosmetic issues that prevent the items from being sold at full price. Each item has been inspected and verified to be functional and structurally sound; this means Bargain Sale items will perform as intended despite being imperfect. There is no fit-guarantee, no returns and no refunds on Seconds and As-Is items. AS-IS items are sold with no warranty or guarantee.

This is a self-serve sale. These discounted harnesses and components will be sold as-is on a first-come-first serve basis only via our website

How it works:

- The BAH and MSH have been designed with interchangeable parts; modular design makes BLD harnesses easy to fit and re-fit
- Each item is sold a-la-carte
- You will need to purchase separate components to build a complete harness
- First, select the **saddle** style and size; this is the main harness body that has pre-been built to accommodate the handles you need and to fit your dog's overall size
- Next, select the individual **breastplate, girth and belly straps**
 - strap sizes are determined by your dog's measurements
 - each of these straps is adjustable by several inches
 - the straps do not have to be exact matches to your measurements, if they're within a couple of inches you will have room to adjust each strap to fine-tune the fit
- Finally, **choose the handles** you need based on the type of assistance you need
- Use this info booklet as a guide to determine the features you need and the correct sizing
- This harness info video will walk you through the choices available to help you choose the right size, features and show you how to take accurate measurements https://youtu.be/-jf0_tHFgIM
- All items have been graded and priced according to their condition
- If you have a fit question, please have all measurements and details ready before you call or email

About the Harness Bargain SALE grading system:

"Seconds" are second quality harness saddles with minor issues that are unlikely to be noticed by most people. **Second quality BAH and MSH items come with our famous lifetime warranty** on parts and workmanship so you can trust it's up to our standards. There are BAH and MSH saddles

"As-Is" items include some harness saddles and loads of straps and handles with more noticeable flaws or signs of shelf-wear and therefore cannot be warrantied, but are absolutely functional. These items may have minor to significant mistakes, stitching errors (cosmetic only), leather or sheepskin blemishes, or show some shelf wear from being tried. A few have had repairs or are in an odd size.



Bargain Sale Seconds and AS-IS items may be:

- retired demonstration samples
- made incorrectly for a custom order (wrong size, etc.)
- made by a harness specialist in-training
- have cosmetic imperfections (scratch, scuff, etc.)
- minor workmanship issues (uneven stitching, or other errors)
- an older model with a discontinued feature or without a new feature
- have hardware that is damaged but functional
- and/or otherwise deemed to be irregular
- discreetly marked with a star to indicate no warranty, refund, or exchange is available or marked with a number 2 to indicate the item is a second that carries our usual warranty on materials and workmanship
- In the rare instance that your non-warrantied equipment needs service in the future, repair service is always available at a nominal cost. Keep in mind that we offer new made-to-order components that can be purchased at any time

Please read the information in this booklet and on this Bargain Sale website page thoroughly to understand what you are purchasing. Due to the nature of this special sale event, customer service will be extremely limited. When you place an order for a new, custom-made harness, we are here to support you thorough every step of the process. However, for these bargain items customer service is extremely limited due to demand.

It is very important to measure your dog and determine what size you will need, to measure your handle so you're sure to get a harness that can accommodate the handle(s) you need, and to decide what features are critical for you before you purchase. Follow the measuring instructions in this booklet and find videos online to help guide you through the process,

No handles are included with Bargain Sale harnesses. Because handles need to be the right size for both you and your dog, they must be purchased separately. There are some discounted handles in the Bargain Sale, and new custom-made handles can be purchased at any time. Be sure you know what handle(s) you need so you can select a harness that can accommodate the handle you need.

How to buy:

1. If you have not purchased from our online store before, create a login so you can add and save items to your cart go to <https://boldleaddesigns.com/my-account/> and "register"
2. *Items in your cart will be reserved for 15 minutes before being released*—plenty of time to complete the checkout process. ***There will be no wait list, no product holds, and no changes to orders once they are confirmed.***
3. And finally, if you're able to snag one of these deals, kick back and wait for the magical delivery to arrive! There are so many items it may take us 2-3 business days to get each order ready to ship. If new items are ordered allow the turnaround time is listed on the product page, for example handles state "Allow 7-10 business days for creation."

All sales are final. Bargain Sale harnesses are sold as-is with no returns, no refunds, no exchanges, and no guarantee or warranties.

Important Notes:

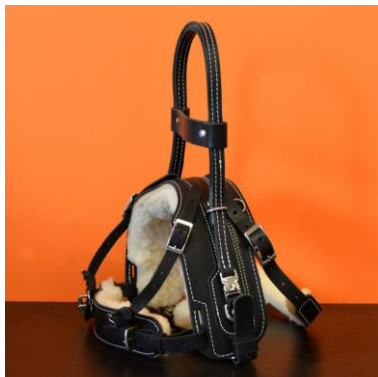
Dogs must be physically mature and of appropriate size, fitness and soundness for the work you would like them to perform.

Mobility, stability, and balance assistance work is physically demanding; a service dog must be in prime physical condition. **The dog's growth plates must be closed before beginning harness work** (recommended minimum of 18-24 months of age). Please allow your dog time to grow and mature. Dogs **MUST** be in our recommended weight/measurement range for the harness to fit and function properly.

Consulting a qualified veterinarian (orthopedic specialist or canine sports medicine physical therapist) is highly recommended for all service/assistance dogs that perform physical tasks. Fit and performance of the equipment can only be assured if the dog meets the minimum recommended standards, the user and trainer have reasonable expectations, and when the equipment is used responsibly for the purpose it was designed. Likewise, harness users should consult a physician and physical therapist to determine what medical equipment is appropriate for their mobility needs.

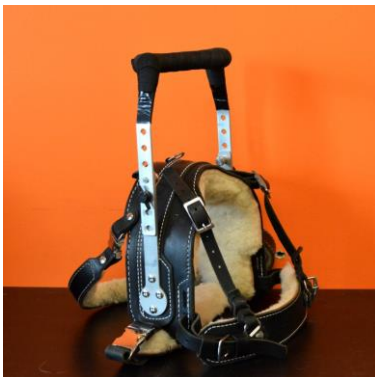
Our equipment is designed to allow an appropriately selected and trained service dog to reasonably assist a person with a balance, mobility impairment, or other disability that requires specialty service dog gear. BLD cannot assess a dog's suitability or appropriateness. **BLD harnesses are not intended to serve as, or to replace, a durable medical device such as a cane, walker, or crutch.** User assumes all responsibility for the safety, health, and care of the animal and human alike.

There are 2 harness styles available: the difference is the primary handle



Balance Assistance Harness (BAH)

has a flexible leather assistance handle



Mobility Support Harness (MSH)

has a rigid metal support handle that folds down

Harness will be made to accommodate ONLY the handles they have been made to accommodate. The handle mounting hardware on the saddle cannot be changed after the harness is made.

This means the primary BAH Balance and MSH Support Handles are not interchangeable.

Leather Balance Assistance Handles can only be interchanged with another leather handle. Likewise, a metal Mobility Support Handle can be interchanged with a new metal support handle. (Tall handles require a saddle with tall/heavy support bars; any MSH harness can accommodate a shorter handle.)

Both the Balance & Mobility harnesses come standard with these great features!

Dog-friendly features:

- Harness flexes with dog's movement yet does not shift or wobble when fit and used properly
- **Lightweight** despite its sturdy nature!
 - Complete harness weighs only 2.5 lb. (1 KG) for standard size, and around 3 pounds (1.3 KG) for giant size
- **Adjustable Straps**
 - All straps have several inches of adjustment to fine-tune the fit
 - **Straps are replaceable** and can be re-fit to another dog requiring the same saddle size
- **Natural shearling wool** (genuine sheepskin)
 - Sheepskin lining on saddle breastplate, girth, and belly straps provide proper cushion to prevent pinching or rubbing, as well as optimal structural support for the function of the harness
- **Suitable for all climates** due to the natural material's breathability, resilience, and durability
 - Leather and shearling wool does not get hot or retain heat like synthetic materials

People-friendly features:

- **Premium quality top grain leather and durable hardware** combined with fine workmanship offers a lifetime of reliable performance.
- Our harnesses are **designed to offer optimal balance support and stability.**
- **A variety of handle options** are available to meet your needs.
- Handles are made to your desired height, are well-balanced and properly supported for maximum stability assistance.
- **Choose the harness style based on the primary handle you need.**
 - **Balance Assistance Harness** with flexible leather handle, see the following page
 - **Mobility Support Harness** with rigid metal handle, see pages 10-14
- Additional handles, such as pulling and guide, are available on all harnesses to add more functionality.
- **Quick-Release buckles** make it easy to put on and take off the dog—simply click together two easy-to-use latches; harness remains adjusted when removed. **Magnetic latch option** is available for those with low dexterity/hand strength.
- **D-rings** for attaching accessories, such as a cape, pouch, ID badges, pulling strap, etc. are included on all harnesses. There are 5 D-rings that come standard: three on the top of the saddle, and two lower D-rings (one on each side).
- **Easy to clean and maintain**, details available on our website and in Owner's Manual.
 - Simply apply leather conditioner regularly to clean and condition the leather, and the harness will remain supple and weather resistant for years to come
 - Clean the wool lining with a brush and vacuum
 - Can be hand-washed as needed
- **Excellent customer support**
 - We are here should you encounter an issue now or in the future
- Comprehensive **Owner's Manual** is included with each harness and has detailed instructions for fitting, and use and care of the equipment. Please understand the warranty information in the Owner's Manual is NOT VALID on these deeply discounted Bargain Sale harnesses.

Commented [KB1]: SB: I added this info on page 7. If it needs to be elsewhere let me know.

Balance Assistance Harness (BAH) with leather handle

Who is it for? The BAH is a good choice for many people with conditions such as vertigo, balance or gait impairment, disequilibrium, neurological conditions, brain injuries, Parkinson's, MS, etc. where light to moderate contact with a flexible handle can assist with orientation, and/or balance support.

This harness offers counterbalance, pulling, and excellent communication with the dog. The BAH can provide stabilization while standing or walking, momentum pull to help maintain a regular gait, leading/guiding feedback, and/or getting up from a seated position.

- Several styles of Assistance Handles are available, each made with sturdy, double-layered leather. Handles are always custom made to any height/length you desire.
- Choose one or a combination of Assistance Handle styles for specific tasks you'd like your dog to perform. Each handle style is designed to properly distribute pressure around the dog's core. Handle options are described on the following pages.
- We at BLD think this harness is the best option for most of our clients with mobility needs!

NOTES: This harness does NOT offer bracing; leather assistance handles are lower impact and generally safer for the dog than a rigid metal handle. This harness will not fit dogs smaller than the minimum weight and measurement size and cannot be adjusted or made smaller than stated.

[See it online here!](#)





Harness size:

Standard BAH ~~\$555~~

For most dogs 45-95 pounds, with a girth size of 26-34 inches (best choice for most retrievers and doodles).

Extra Large BAH ~~\$585~~

For most dogs 90-150 pounds, with a girth size of 33-40 inches (also recommended for deep-chested breeds such as GSD's and Dobermans weighing 85 pounds or more, and any dog over 100 pounds such as Rottweilers, female Great Danes, Newfoundlands, Bernese, etc.).

Giant BAH ~~\$650~~

For dogs 140-200 pounds, with a girth over 40 inches (best choice for larger/male Great Danes, St. Bernards, Mastiffs, etc.). Only available in black.

Color:

Black: Latigo leather is our standard offering. Because the leather is solid black all the way through, it does not fade, hides the appearance of scuffs and wears beautifully over time.

London Tan: ~~(add \$20)~~ Gorgeous bridle leather. Tan shades may vary slightly; each part of harness may be a different shade but always coordinate beautifully. May darken and show some scuffs with use over time. (Not available in giant size.)

Handles:

All Bargain Sale BAH are made to accommodate the standard Balance Handle or a Clip-On handle. Handles may be purchased separately.

Balance Handle (vertical):

A) Flexible Balance Handle

This leather handle is positioned vertically on the harness. It is stabilized to provide excellent feedback and communication with your dog. 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.

B) Semi-Rigid Balance Handle ~~(add \$20)~~

Same looks and features as the above option. Reinforced with a rawhide core for a firmer feel and increased feedback, this handle will hold its form and **stand upright**, making it accessible for grasping without bending over. Very sturdy yet does not transfer excess motion or torque to the dog like a metal handle does. Good for counterbalance and stability, especially for people that have non-fluid movement yet need a sturdy option. Handle can lay down by releasing the latches at the base of the handle.



Balance Handle

A) Flexible

B) Semi-Rigid

C) Clip-on Balance Handle (loose): CAN BE USED ON ANY BAH HARNESS!

Minimal, low profile option clips onto heavy-duty O-rings toward the top of the harness saddle. 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. This handle has a looser feel and is lower profile than the above options.

Support Pull Handle (angles back):

Mouse Ears are required for this handle.

See details on each Bargain Sale harness for compatibility.

D) Flexible Leather Support Pull Handle

E) Semi-Rigid Leather Support Pull (add \$20)

Designed for heavier momentum and pulling needs, this handle provides optimal pulling pressure distribution. Handle attaches low on the harness in the most ergonomic location for the dog to pull with minimal effort. "Mouse ear" loops keep the handle in position at a slight angle back. This handle drops a bit when you let go of it, has a looser feel than A or B, but is best 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. We recommend a clip-on balance handle as an additional handle.



C) Clip-On Handle



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

Harnesses can accommodate a second handle if desired! We highly recommend a second handle to add more functionality to your harness. These can be longer or shorter than the primary handle to allow the dog to assist with additional tasks. For example, you might choose primary handle B) Semi-Rigid Balance Handle at a short height (3") for balance when navigating stairs, or rising to stand along with handle option D) Support Pull Handle at a taller height for balance when standing and gait stability and momentum while walking.

Mobility Support Harness (MSH) with rigid metal support handle

Who is it for? The MSH can be a good option for people with balance impairment, disequilibrium, neurological conditions, or other conditions where light to moderate contact with a rigid vertical handle can **assist with orientation and/or balance support**. This harness can provide **light bracing** while the dog and the person are both standing.

An additional leather handle can be added to allow the MSH to assist with momentum, gait stabilization, pulling, leading, and counterbalance support while in motion.

- **Rigid metal Support Handle** made from lightweight, high-grade aluminum
- Provides vertical stability support and can be used for occasional light bracing, such as getting up from a seated position or for balance while standing. (Dog should always be standing square to brace in these situations.)
- The MSH Support Handle is designed with low center of gravity to distribute pressure around the dog's core. **Support bars** mounted to the harness saddle are permanent and will not loosen over time, and feature support **D-rings** on each side. (New 2020 feature at no charge!)
- **Support Handle folds down** to allow dogs into tight spaces, in vehicles, under tables or chairs
- Padded handle grip is comfortable and easy to clean
- Reflective tape on sides of handlebar for night-time visibility
- Additional leather handle options are available to add additional functionality to the harness
- The MSH is only for dogs over 60 pounds that are large and strong enough to perform this physically demanding work for their partner.

NOTE: Rigid support handles must not be leaned on for constant support, pulled on, or used for momentum while walking. Heavy pressure should never be applied to the metal handle, especially while the dog is in motion. The MSH is not recommended for people with ataxia, Parkinson's disease, or similar conditions that cause shaking or tremors because excess movement through the metal handle will throw the dog off balance, add additional strain to the dog, and will feel unstable to the person: the BAH is better suited for such applications. This harness will not fit dogs smaller than the stated minimum weight and measurement size.





MSH size:

Standard MSH \$585

For most dogs 60-95 pounds, with a girth size of 28-34 inches (best choice for most retrievers and doodles). NOT available for dogs under 60 pounds.

Extra Large MSH \$600

For most dogs 90-150 pounds, with a girth size of 33-40 inches (also recommended for deep-chested breeds such as GSD's and Dobermans weighing 85 pounds or more, and any dog over 100 pounds such as Rottweilers, Great Danes, Newfoundlands, etc.) Available in black only.

Giant size MSH \$715

For dogs 140-200 pounds, with a girth over 40 inches (best choice for larger/male Great Danes, St. Bernards, Mastiffs, etc).

Sorry, not all options are available on this size. ONLY available in black with standard bars. No tall handles or pull-rings are available.

Color:

Black: Latigo leather is our standard offering. Because the leather is solid black all the way through it does not fade, hides the appearance of scuffs, and wears beautifully over time.

London Tan: ~~(add \$20)~~ Gorgeous bridle leather. Tan shades may vary slightly; each part of harness may be a different shade but always coordinate beautifully. May darken and show some scuffs with use over time.

Rigid Support Handle

See details on each Bargain Sale harness for compatibility. Any MSH can always accommodate a shorter handle. Not all can accommodate a tall handle.

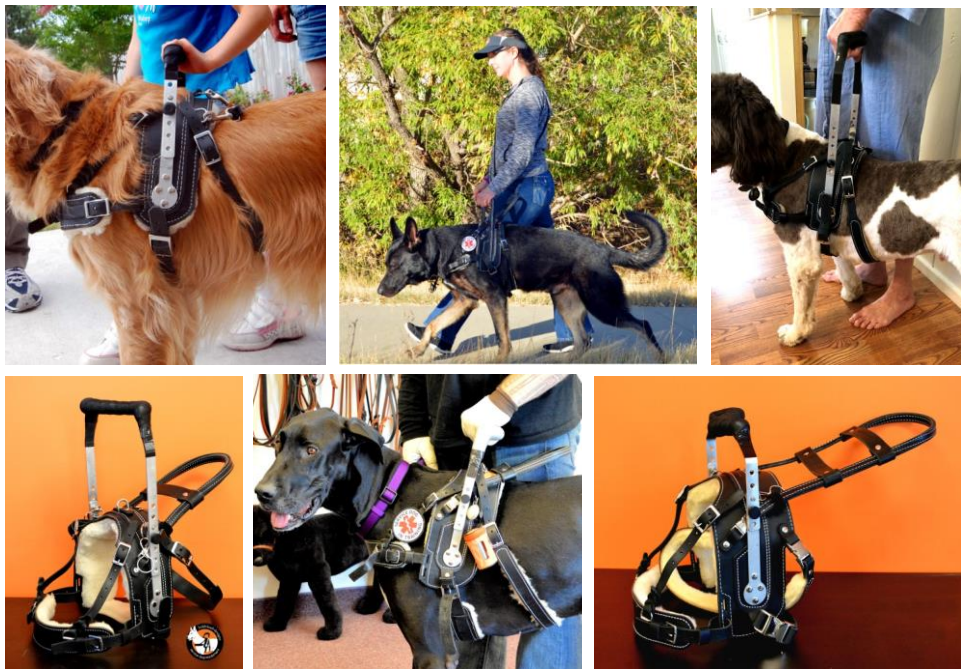
- ☐ 2-4"
- ☐ 3-6"
- ☐ 6.5-8.5"
- ☐ 9-11" TALL* ~~(add \$35)~~

Harness MUST be made with TALL heavier gauge metal and upgraded support bars to accommodate this handle.

**Tall handles apply more torque and pressure to the dog than shorter handles. Not recommended for most users or any dog smaller than stated minimum size. Consider the BAH if tall handle is required.*



NOTE: Height is the distance between the top of the harness saddle and the top of the handlebar. Support Handle adjustment range listed is approximate; exact dimensions depend on the harness size and dog's width. Measurements will determine the handle size you need. Handlebars can be replaced at any time with a similar height (Tall handles will ONLY fit on harnesses ordered with a TALL handlebar option).



Support Handle grip style: made to order

Straight Grip \$70-90

Standard handle grip is ambidextrous. Your hand and elbow will be positioned directly over the dog's body, with your palm facing back.

Ergonomic Grip \$135 *Highly recommended!*

Left Hand Ergo. or Right Hand Ergo.

Z-shaped handle grip allows for more natural hand and arm position. Arm and elbow are able to relax in toward your body while your hand remains centered over the dog. Ergonomic grip is comfortable and balanced for most people, especially those with hand/wrist/shoulder mobility or pain issues. (When necessary, ergonomic handle can be used with opposite hand; palm will face forward.) Ergonomic handles are made for EITHER the left or right hand and cannot be changed. However, you can use an ergo. handle in the opposite hand with your palm facing forward. Add \$20 for TALL handles over 9"

Handle Folding: ALL support handles fold down!

Handle folding mechanism is engaged by pulling two small pegs—one on each side of the handlebar.

Standard release pegs

Standard release pegs are a small metal knob (dime sized) that pulls out to release the handle so it can fold back. Can be operated together or independently when the built-in locking mechanism is engaged.

Pull-Rings

Highly recommended for weak hands or one-hand operation.
For people with limited dexterity who have trouble grasping a small peg, Pull-Rings can be added to make it easier to operate the handle folding mechanism. Includes nifty Infini-Key extenders for convenience.

MOST harnesses can have pull-rings. See details on each Bargain Sale harness for compatibility. **Pull-ring Retrofit kits can be ordered separately.**

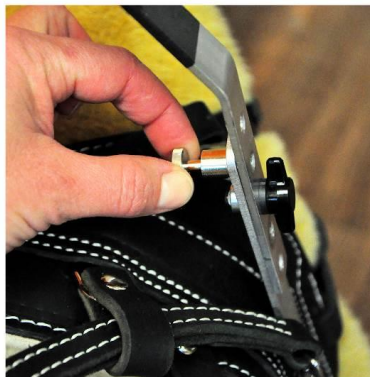
Ergonomic grip vs. Straight grip



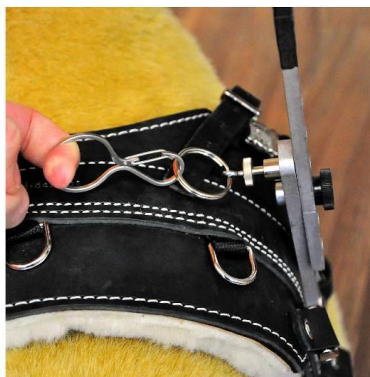
Top View



Front View



Standard Release Peg



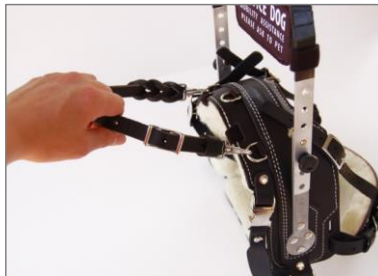
Pull-Ring option

MSH additional handle options:

Customize your MSH harness for pulling, leading, forward momentum, and guiding; several handle styles to choose from.

Basic Pull-Strap (add \$25) can be ordered separately

This simple leather strap is adjustable and forms a 3-6" handle when clipped onto the standard D-rings. Good for getting up from a seated position, or occasional wheelchair pulling. (Not built into the harness, can be added anytime.)



Support Pull Handle

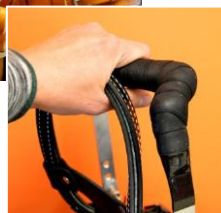
Flexible Support Pull Handle

Semi-Rigid Support Pull Handle

Highly recommended!

The Support Pull Handle is designed for heavier momentum and pulling needs and can be made to any length. **This handle is best used as the primary handle for those who need moderate gait stabilization, a sturdy momentum pull, or leading of any kind.** Handle attaches to lower d-rings with spring snaps and angles back behind the metal support handle; harness will be made with "mouse ear" loops to provide optimal pulling pressure distribution. Available as a flexible handle, or semi-rigid which is reinforced for a sturdier feel and enhanced feedback. Custom made to desired length.

Recommended length is 1-2" shorter than the metal handle—this makes it easy to grasp the metal support handle when more support is needed. Can be made longer if preferred; indicate when ordering.



A brace strap may be added to support pull or guide handles to stabilize the handle loop, depending on the height/length of your handle.

MSH Accessories:

Replacement bolts:

Highly recommended!

Removable bolts hold the handle onto the harness. All bolt sets include rubber washers, and are available in standard or tall size to fit your handle. **Your MSH will come with one full set.** Order an extra to keep an extra set handy, just in case.

(Hardware is a standard size bolt (1/4-20). BLD's bolt kits have thumb screw caps to make them easy to operate without tools.)

- ☐ Full set of bolts includes two round bolts, two winged bolts \$6
- ☐ Pair of winged (T-shaped) bolts \$4
- ☐ Pair of Round bolts \$4



Banner Badge: \$25

[Can be ordered here](#)

Two-sided woven patch spans between the handlebars. 2.5 x 5 inches. Easily attaches to handlebar with included Velcro straps. Only fits MSH rigid metal support handles 4" or taller.

- #105 Mobility Assistance Dog / STOP sign / DO NOT PET / DO NOT DISTRACT / Do Not Separate Dog from Handler



Harness Accessories for BAH & MSH:

BLD's Service Dog Cape/Vest:

[Can be ordered here](#)

- Cape/Vest is specifically designed to be compatible with BLD's BAH & MSH. Assorted colors available. Made in Colorado.
- Sits on the dog's back behind the harness saddle and does not interfere with the function of your harness, or overburden your dog.
- Velcro tabs attach the cape/vest to the D-rings on your harness.
- Flat, low-profile design does not catch on your legs as you walk next to your dog (providing they're not over-stuffed!)
- Three Velcro panels to attach patches

☐ **Medium Cape/Vest, \$55**

overall size: 6.5 x 18, fits standard size harness

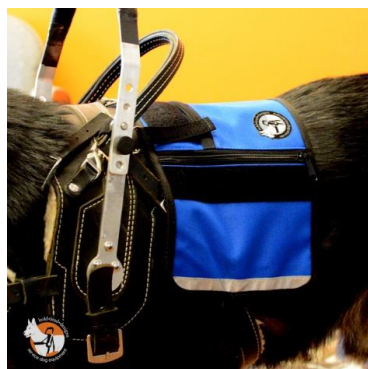
☐ **Large Cape/Vest, \$60**

overall size: 7.5 x 20 inches, fits XL harness

Optional nylon **Chest Harness Strap (CHS)** is available if you wish to use the Cape-Vest as a stand-alone service dog vest. Great option so your dog can be "dressed" when not wearing the MSH/BAH harness.

☐ **Medium CHS, \$12**

☐ **Large CHS, \$15**



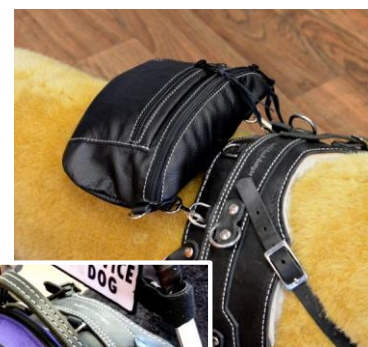
Harness Pouch

Fabric Accessory Pouch features a roomy main pouch, front zipper pocket, reflective stripes, accessory D-rings, and a Velcro panel to attach a patch or badge. The pouch can be clipped onto the standard D-rings on BLD's service dog harnesses, or can be worn as a waist pack by attaching to belt-loops on your jeans/trousers, or worn on any belt. Main pouch opening is half-moon shaped at the top to allow easy access, and tapers at the bottom. Measures approx. 8 x 6 inches (20 x 15 cm); front zipper pocket is approx. 3 x 5 inches (7.5 x 13 cm). Assorted colors. Made in Colorado. One size. **\$30** [Can be ordered here](#)

Leather Accessory Pouch is made with designer handbag quality leather and detailing by Amish artisans in Ohio. Zippered pouch is half-moon shaped with a smaller zipper pocket on the top. Can be used as a hip/wait pack on your belt.

☐ **Leather pouch, standard size \$100**
(black or red) 8 x 4 x 2"

☐ **Leather pouch, large size \$110**
for XL harness (black or red) 10 x 5 x 2.5"



Velcro Patch:

Clear and legible woven patches are backed with Velcro to stick onto your vest/cape or pouch. No sewing required! Choose one or a combination of patches to identify your dog's status as a service dog. Imported. [Can be ordered here.](#)



3 x 1 inches (7.6 x 2.5 cm) \$6 each

- ☐ #13-1 Do Not Separate/Dog From Handler
- ☐ #13-2 Emergency/Info Inside Pocket
- ☐ #13-3 Mobility/Assistance Dog
- ☐ #13-4 Ignore Me/I'm Working

5 x 1.5 inches (12.7x 3.8cm) \$8 each

- ☐ #155-1 Service Dog
- ☐ #155-2 Service Dog/In Training
- ☐ #155-3 STOP/Do Not Distract
- ☐ #155-4 Service Dog /Do Not Pet



Leash Wrap:

aka Double Patch [Can be ordered here.](#)

Specially designed as a leash wrap, these round, double-sided badges can Velcro around a leash or harness strap up to 1 inch wide. Looks great on harness shoulder straps or on the sides of handles. Choose from various Service Dog and STOP sign designs. Made from premium fabric or woven damask. Most badges are 3.25" (8.25 cm) in diameter. Imported.

Round/circle designs are \$16:

- ☐ #300 Please STOP I Need Space (3.25" / 8.9 cm)
- ☐ #301A Service Dog
- ☐ #302 Service Dog / In Training
- ☐ #303A Service Dog / Do Not Distract
- ☐ #304A Do Not Pet / STOP / Do Not Distract
- ☐ #305 Medical Alert / Assistance Dog
- ☐ #306 Service Dog / Medical Assistance / Public Access Required
- ☐ #801-2A Octagon STOP sign \$18
 - Side 1: STOP Please / Ignore
 - Side 2: NO EYE CONTACT TOUCH OR TALK Dog is Working



How to measure for your BAH or MSH harness:

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.

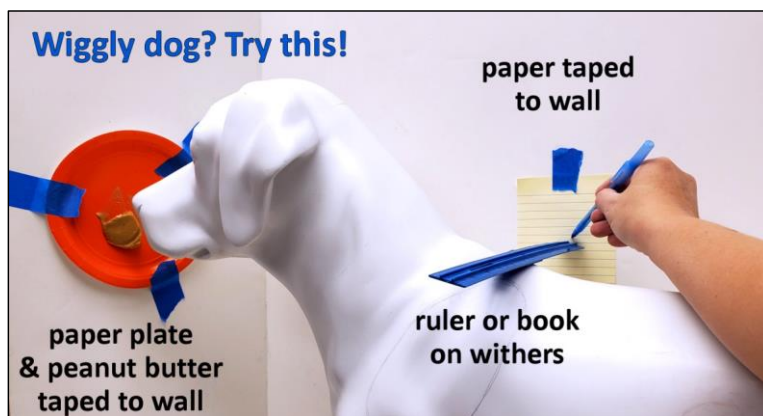
Provide all measurements at the time of your order—you can call us, order online, or email us directly. Please note that delays in receiving complete & accurate order information will affect the turnaround time of your harness order, as we cannot start on the harness without these important details.

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.

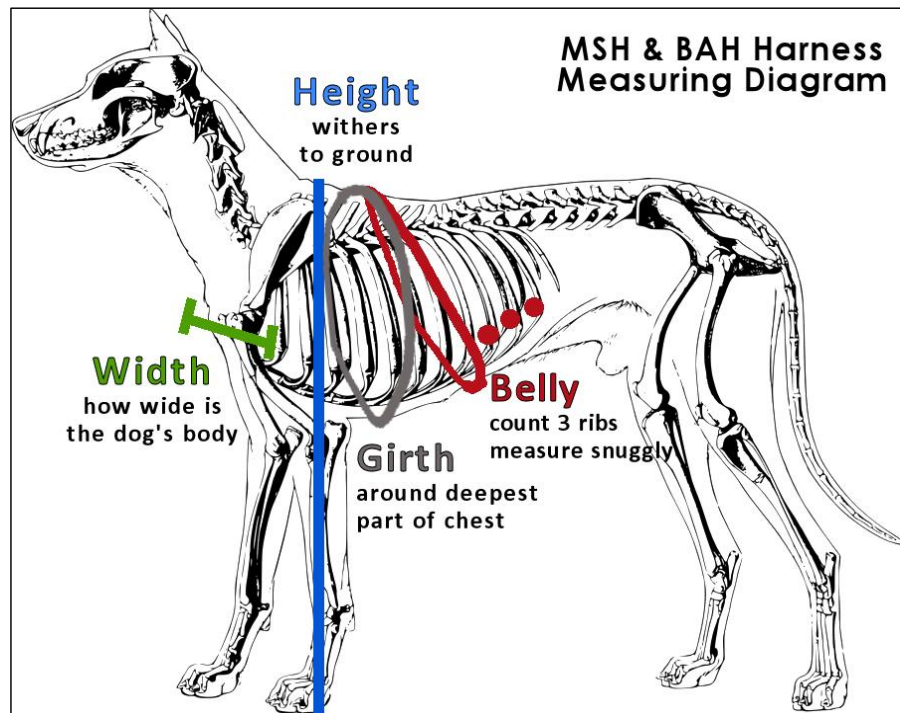
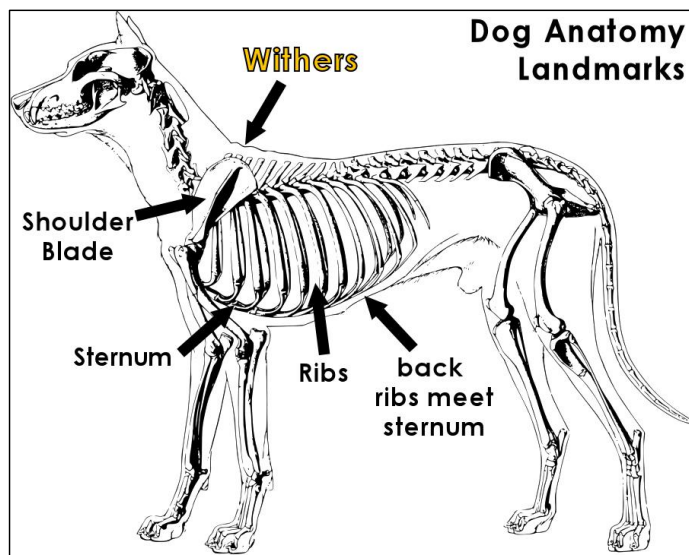
Tips & Hints

- 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.



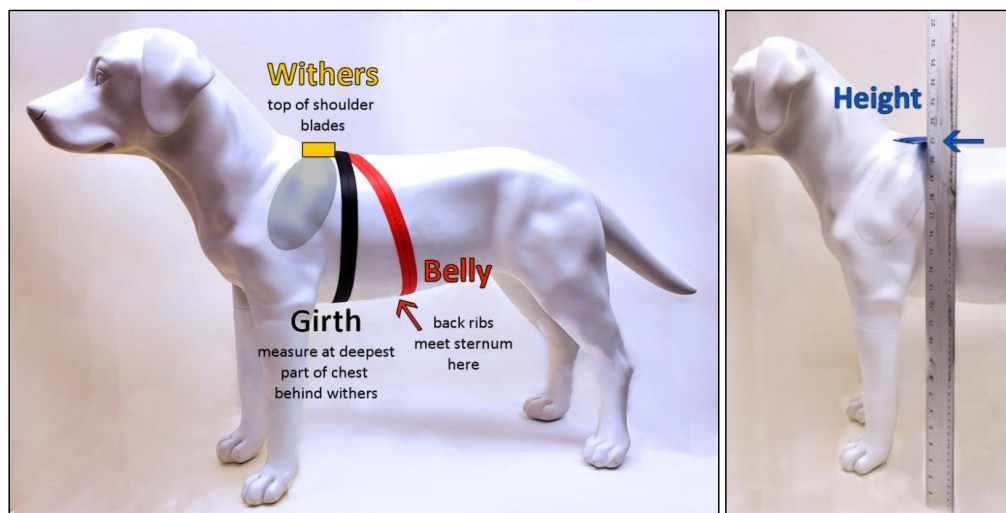
BAH & MSH Measuring Instructions

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 you're 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!

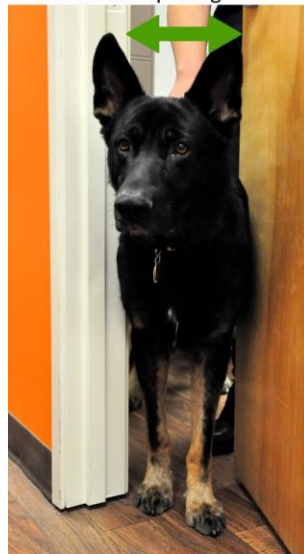
4) Measure the dog's **Width**

- 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.



Pro Tip:

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



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! 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 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

Follow steps above for 1 & 2

- 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.**
- 4) **Allow your arm to relax.** Let your elbow relax naturally as you hold the pencil comfortably. (Don't bend or straighten your arm.)
- 5) **Measure from the pencil to the floor.**
- 6) Repeat!

We use the wrist and/or hand measurements to calculate handle heights in most cases. If hand/wrist are at or lower than the dog's back, we suggest the minimum heights: a 2-4" rigid, or 3" leather handle.

You are welcome to choose a specific handle height! Order whatever size you need (just be sure the harness can accommodate that variation). For example, if you will only use the rigid metal handle for bracing to rise from a chair or transfer to a chair (not when you're standing/ walking), then we suggest a short 2-4" handle for the greatest stability. Need a secondary handle nice and short for pulling yourself up, or on stairs, try a Support Pull handles 1-2" lower than the rigid metal support handle (so the leather handle tucks under the metal grip.)

