Instructions for Collecting Dog Height

We recommend having one person position and handle the dog and another person feel for the bony landmarks and record the measurement to ensure accuracy.

Required tools: yard stick or long (at least 3 feet) measuring device

1. On an even surface, like wood floor or tile, lay a measuring stick flat against the wall, perpendicular to the floor. Make sure the entire tool is flat against the wall, not tilted forward or backwards, and the start of the measurement is in contact with the ground.

![Correct image](image1.png)

Ruler is straight and flat against the wall.

![Incorrect image](image2.png)

Ruler is NOT flat against the wall.

Ruler is NOT on the ground and will result in incorrect measurement.

Ruler’s measurement does NOT start at the ground, and will result in incorrect measurement.

Ruler is NOT straight.
2. Position the dog next to measuring stick, so that the front limb is next to and parallel with the measuring stick.

The dog’s front limb is aligned with the measuring stick. Front and back legs are square and the head is in a neutral position.

3. Make sure the dog is standing straight and its shoulders and hips are square. Its legs should be perpendicular to the floor and its feet should be shoulder/hip width apart. The dog’s head should be in a neutral position, not extended up or down. The dog should be positioned against the wall and held still.

Legs are NOT square.  Head is NOT in neutral position.
4. Feel along the dog’s back, near the base of the neck for both shoulder blades. The measurement should be taken at the highest point of the dog’s shoulder blades.
5. You can use a pencil or removable tape to mark the measurement on the measuring stick or wall.

6. Once the measurement is recorded, please send the measurement, in inches, to genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu.

Thank you so much for your time and participation!
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us via email: genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu or give us a call at (608) 265-5828.