

Measuring_Your_Dog_With_a_Wicket.txt

To do a good job of measuring your dog you need two people, one to stack and hold the dog, and someone to measure. Remove the dog's collar or use a show lead/slip lead so you don't have a wide collar blocking some of the view of your dog's neck. Stack your dog, just like you would for the conformation judge or to take conformation photos. You want his head held at its normal, comfortable level. You want him to be relaxed. If he lowers his head, it will reduce the measurement. If he raises his head, it will increase it. If he isn't relaxed, he'll measure taller than he really is. Measure him in the house on level, hard flooring, like kitchen or bathroom.

If you don't already have a wicket, you can buy one online at <http://amzn.to/29AoA7x>. Fold out the black arm with the level and adjust it on the measuring stick so it's at about 58cm (56cm for a female). Set it on the floor so the measuring stick runs down along the side of his front leg and the black arm goes over his withers. Slowly lower the black arm, keeping it level, until it just touches his withers. Check the measurement. Do this as many times as it takes to get 3 identical measurements.

It's not as critical to be 100% accurate with length, because you have 5cm of wiggle-room to be within the Standard. Generally, if your dog is not long enough or is too long and is outside the Standard, it will be visibly noticeable. Munsters should be almost square, just a little longer than tall. Refer to the Measuring Guide (http://brushdale.com/training/Conformation/Measuring_Guide.pdf). Another quick way to eyeball whether a dog is almost square is to look at the open space *under* the dog, but you need to be viewing the space from straight on, so the dog needs to be up on a table or you need to be sitting on the ground. The open space under the dog should appear to be almost square.

For length, stack your dog as before making sure he is relaxed and comfortable. If he's not relaxed, he'll arch his back and bunch up, making him measure less long than he really is. I like to take this measurement with the dog standing next to a wall so I can use the wall to balance the wicket (like you use the floor when you are measuring height) and to mark the starting point. To be as accurate as possible, you'll need to write on the wall (or tape a piece of paper to the wall to write on). Preset the black arm at 5cm more than his height measurement. It is usually easier to measure from back to front, so the tail isn't in the way. Use the black arm/level to get a starting point by putting it across his buttocks (butt bones) and marking the wall. (If you find it easier, you can use a regular 12" level to mark the buttocks starting point.) Then turn the wicket around so the measuring stick runs behind the dog along the wall, placing the bottom at the mark you made. Slowly slide the black arm, keeping it level, until it barely touches across the points of the shoulders. Do this as many times as it takes to get 3 identical measurements.