

Choosing The Right Variocage

Proper Technique for Measuring your Dog for a Cage

Here are some helpful hints when measuring your dog for a Variocage.

Please note that it is important to measure your dog first before measuring your vehicle. Proper fit for your dog is vital to your dog's comfort and safety.

Hold the measuring tape in one hand and place the free end at the front edge of your dog's nose pulling it straight back to the base of his tail. This will give you the length measurement for your dog. You will need to add Three (3) inches to allow the dog room to turn around in the cage.

Place the tape at the top of the shoulder and measure down to the floor to get a proper height measurement. Add Three (3) inches to give the dog plenty of room if he wants to stand up.

Be sure to estimate your dog's adult size if you order his crate while he is still growing. You can check his breed standard to get an estimate of what size he will reach at maturity to make sure your crate is large enough.

Proper measuring will assure that your pet can comfortably stand, sit, turn around, and lie down in his cage. You can always add a divider panel in the MIM Safe Variocage Double if necessary, and reserve the remaining space until your pet grows into it.

As a general rule, if you're not sure which size to select, choose a larger size.

Proper Technique for Measuring your Vehicle for a Cage

Here are some helpful hints when measuring for a Variocage to fit your vehicle.

Proper use of the Variocage relies on the crumple zone protection designed into your vehicle and the Variocage. For best safety and by design, the Variocage must be facing lengthwise in the vehicle against the back of the 2nd row seats for maximum protection of both your dog and any human occupants. Please make sure you measure your vehicle with this placement and positioning of the Variocage in mind.

Depending on your vehicle, the length of the Variocage may need to be adjusted to fit. Please make sure the length is suitable for your dog with the cage adjusted to fit your vehicle. In some cases, a double cage without the divider may offer more room for a larger dog than a single cage.

Check to see if your car has a sill or threshold in the back by the rear door. If it does, you may want to consider the Variocage Compact Model that is designed to work with a threshold.

If you decide to use a Variocage Single, Double or Minimax model with a threshold, you will have to put something under the cage to raise it up if the sill is taller than 2 inches. This is necessary in order to allow the Variocage door to open.

If it is necessary to raise the cage, we recommend the use of Styrofoam (preferably the pink sheets sold for insulation in most hardware, lumber and home improvement stores). Do not use wood or any other solid object of any kind. Solid objects will transfer energy from an impact into the back seat and can become serious hazards during an accident.

The Variocage is safest mounted level on a flat surface secured to the floor in your vehicle. It is important to use the straps provided with the Variocage to secure it to the tie-down hooks in your vehicle. These straps are integral to the safety design of the Variocage. The straps that come with the Variocage are engineered to give way in a severe impact allowing the crumple zone protection of the Variocage to work properly.

The MIM Safe Variocage is suitable for use in Station Wagons, Minivans, and SUV's. The Variocage design, features and adjustable length allow it to fit in most suitable vehicles.

The Variocage is angled to match the slope of the back seat and the slope of the rear cargo door. The roof of the crate is also narrower in width than the floor. These features allow for a proper fit in almost all suitable vehicles.

Measure the narrowest point of the cargo area in your vehicle. Typically, the point between the wheel wells along the floor will be the narrowest point. However, in some cases, the rear portion of the cargo area or the rear door entryway can be the narrowest point. Also, please note that the rear door entryway may have rounded corners at the top. In this case, check the height of the Variocage against the height of the rear door entryway to ensure it will fit through the narrowest point of the entryway.

Measure the height of the opening for the cargo area and the height of the cargo area itself. Maximum height is measured from the floor to the lowest point of the rear door entryway. Please note that the rear door entryway may have rounded corners. In this case, measure the shortest point, i.e. not in the middle of the rear door entryway.

Measure the length of the cargo area floor. Please note that the rear door hatch may be curved or angled inward towards the interior cargo area of the vehicle. In this case, please check the height of the cage you wish to fit in your vehicle and measure from that point lengthwise to the rear seat and see the note below regarding the angle and length of the cage at its maximum height.

IMPORTANT MEASURING INFORMATION:

The MIM Safe Variocage is suitable for use in Station Wagons, Minivans, and SUV's. The Variocage is also angled towards the top on both the front and the back of the cage and is adjustable in length so it can fit in a variety of vehicles. The slope of the front and back of the cage is approximately the same as the slope of the backseat.

The roof of the cage is shorter in length than the floor in consideration of the angle of the back seat, as well as the angle of the rear entryway door. Measuring length as indicated above will provide for a proper fit in almost all suitable vehicles.

The roof of the cage is narrower in width than the floor to allow for a proper fit in almost all suitable vehicles.

We hope these instructions will help you find the proper Variocage for your vehicle.