

Muzzle training

for safer, happier lives together

Muzzles are a valuable management tool that may help dogs safely navigate a variety of situations. Wearing a muzzle does not mean a dog is “aggressive” or “bad”. In many cases it reflects a responsible owner taking sensible steps to keep their dog, other people and other animals safe. A well-fitted muzzle can provide an additional layer of safety while behaviour modification and training are underway.



MUZZLES CAN HELP WITH:



SAFETY

Reducing risk of injury & bites during stressful situations



MORE SPACE

Letting others see that your dog may need space



VETERINARY CARE

Safe examination, treatment and handling of your dog



WILDLIFE SAFETY

Managing risk of injury to livestock and wild animals



SCAVENGING

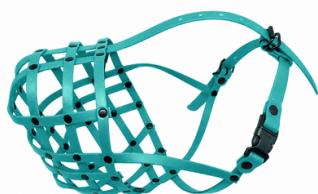
Preventing picking up food or dangerous items

CHOOSING THE RIGHT MUZZLE

A well-fitted basket muzzle is usually the best option.

Your dog should be able to:

- ✓ Pant
- ✓ Drink
- ✓ Eat treats
- ✓ Yawn
- ✓ Stay cool



This is particularly important during warmer weather when dogs rely on panting to **regulate their body temperature**.

TEACHING YOUR DOG TO WEAR A MUZZLE



1

INTRODUCE

Introduce the muzzle gradually and allow your dog to investigate it voluntarily.



2

CREATE POSITIVE ASSOCIATIONS

Put treats in the muzzle so your dog chooses to place their nose inside.



3

BUILD DURATION

Gradually increase the amount of time your dog keeps their nose in the muzzle.



4

INTRODUCE STRAPS

Introduce the straps while continuing to reward your dog.



5

INTRODUCE CLIP/BUCKLE

Briefly fasten the muzzle and immediately reward.



6

USE DURING ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES

Gradually build and pair muzzle wearing with walks, games and food enrichment.

♥ Progress at your dog's pace. **Never force the muzzle on.**

HELPFUL RESOURCES

BUMAS

Custom-made, biothane basket muzzles



www.bumas-muzzle.com

The Muzzle Movement

Comfortable and a wide range of sizes & colours



www.themuzzlemovement.com

'Baskerville' brand

Widely available basket-style muzzles



www.companyofanimals.co.uk

Blue Cross Muzzle Training

Step-by-step video guidance to help you train your dog.



NEED MORE HELP?

Behaviour concerns are often easier to address when support is sought *early*. Did you know most pet insurance companies cover the costs of clinical behaviourists?



Dr Michelle Lord

Clinical Animal Behaviourist
PhD · CCAB · APBC

07944 577891
michelle@co-evolve.co.uk
www.co-evolve.co.uk



This resource has been produced by

Dr Michelle Lord

and

Co-Evolve

