



DOG

MUZZLE

MANUAL AND TRAINING GUIDE

Table of Contents:

1. Package contents	1
2. Introduction	1
3. Fitting the muzzle	3
4. Training your dog to wear a muzzle	6

1. PACKAGE CONTENTS

- Muzzle
- Collar
- Connecting strap

The collar and connecting strap can be used to secure the muzzle, if the neck strap keeps sliding over your dog's head. If your dog is already wearing a collar, you can use the connecting strap with your own collar.

2. INTRODUCTION

A muzzle can be a great training tool, especially for reactive dogs. If there is any risk that your dog might bite people or other dogs, muzzle training is the responsible thing to do and will offer you peace of mind. Some people even use a muzzle to discourage their dog from eating unsavory things, such as fecal matter. Fortunately, you can train a dog to accept (and even enjoy) wearing a muzzle, if you take a patient approach, together with lots of treats.

A muzzle is not a solution to barking and chewing, which are part of a dog's nature and which, therefore, can be ongoing issues.

A muzzle is also not a replacement for consistent training and behavior modification. If your dog barks excessively, there is a reason for it: separation anxiety, boredom, sounding the alarm, territorial barking, or attention seeking. Any one of these (or other) causes could be responsible for your dog's barking, which should be correctly analyzed and addressed. Likewise, chewing can have numerous causes that will not go away on their own.

If your dog has never worn a muzzle, there is a good chance that placing one abruptly on its face could cause terror and lead to future handling issues, the next time someone approaches your dog's head or face. To prevent this, please read this training manual carefully, before you try putting the muzzle on your dog.

Finally, and what is most important - don't rush; take it at the dog's speed!

3. FITTING THE MUZZLE



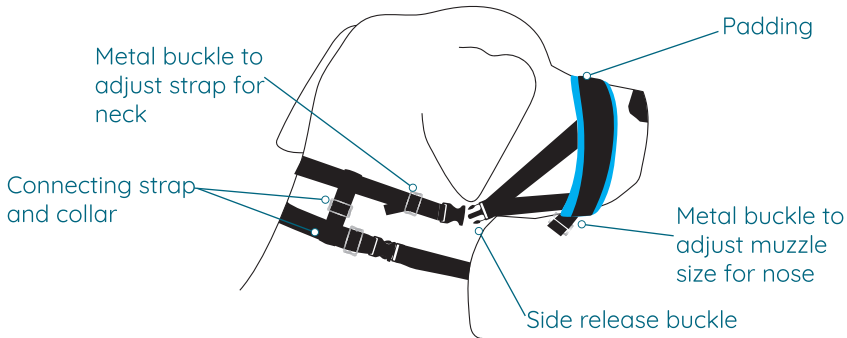
IMPORTANT:

Making the final fitting adjustments for your dog should come after you have completed the basic training. It's not important that the muzzle fits perfectly, in the early stages of training. It is only important that your dog learns to love putting on and wearing its muzzle, willingly.

If your dog has never worn a muzzle before, read and work through the section on muzzle training (Chapter 4) before attempting to put the muzzle on your dog.

To put on the muzzle:

- 1) Undo the plastic buckle.
- 2) Slide the muzzle over your dog's nose with the foam padding resting on top of the nose (see the image below). Use the metal buckle, under the chin, to adjust the fit of the muzzle to your dog's nose.
- 3) Fasten the plastic buckle. You can use the metal buckle on the neck strap to adjust the strap to fit your dog's neck.
- 4) If needed, use the connecting strap and/or collar provided in the package, to prevent the neck strap from sliding over your dog's head. You can adjust the connecting strap's length using the metal buckle.



As soon as your dog feels comfortable in the muzzle, you are ready to fit the muzzle correctly. The first rule for a good fit is that the muzzle should be snug, but not too tight. The muzzle should allow your dog to open its mouth for drinking and breathing, even panting; but it should prevent your dog from opening its mouth completely.



IMPORTANT:

Make sure your dog can drink, breathe and even pant, while wearing the muzzle!

Never leave your dog unattended while wearing the muzzle.



4. TRAINING YOUR DOG TO WEAR A MUZZLE

The goal of muzzle training is to make wearing the muzzle a safe, happy game that your dog loves to play. Your final aim is to have your dog push its face into the muzzle and hold its head steady as you buckle or fasten the muzzle.

Here are a few handy tips to keep in mind while training:

- Keep your sessions short and take many breaks. A good rule of thumb is 5-15 minutes, with breaks afterwards. Offer your dog 10-15 treats, a play session, or a drink to allow your dog to process the lesson.
- Proceed at your dog's pace. In other words, take your time. Rushing past important steps can set you back and this will mean training will take more time.
- If, at any time during muzzle training, the dog appears anxious or unhappy about the muzzle, back up the plan and return to the previous step.
- Your dog should look comfortable and ready for another repetition, at each level, before you think about moving to the next step. Stay at each step until your dog is able to repeat the step successfully (5-15 repetitions) before moving on to the next step.
- If you get stuck on any step (e.g. the dog becomes uncomfortable and won't stop pawing at the muzzle), stop and take a break. When you try again, go back to the previous step in the plan. If necessary, create intermediate steps with an intensity and duration that your dog is comfortable with.

Step 1. Getting your dog to feel comfortable near the muzzle

Show the muzzle to your dog from a distance; reward with food whenever your dog looks at it. Do this 2-5 times. After you have established that your dog is comfortable viewing the muzzle, move the muzzle gradually closer and then give your dog some treats.

If the dog retreats from the muzzle, start from farther away. Hold it at a distance where it can see it but where it doesn't try to move away. Toss your dog some treats while the muzzle is in view, then conceal the muzzle (e.g., put it behind your back) and stop giving treats. Show the muzzle again and start giving treats, then take it away and stop giving treats. Gradually move the muzzle closer until it is within touching distance of your dog.



Note: If your dog is familiar with using a clicker, you can use a clicker combined with, or instead of, treats.

Step 2. Creating interest in the muzzle



Note: You are **shaping** your dog's behavior to interact with, and eventually place its nose into, the muzzle, so keep the steps small.

Put the muzzle on a table or hold it in your hand. Any time your dog looks at it, sniffs it, or shows any interest in it, reward your dog profusely. Give verbal praise and treats.

While still holding a treat, attempt to get your dog to sniff the muzzle. As soon as it does, give treats. Repeat this until your dog to put its nose into the muzzle and eventually keeps it there for longer and longer periods

Step 3. Preparing your dog to wear the muzzle

After your dog can keep its nose in the muzzle on its own, move the straps around as if you were going to strap the muzzle on. However, do not fasten the buckles yet! Continue offering treats, for each step that your dog lets you take without pulling out of the muzzle. Once you finally get the muzzle on completely, give treats and then take it off to give your dog another treat and to praise it.

Wrap the strap around your dog's neck and hold it as if was closed. Don't actually close it. Repeat sporadically until your dog is comfortable with this.

Step 4. Getting your dog used to putting on the muzzle

Allow your dog to place its nose in the muzzle and reward it with treats, and then clip the muzzle straps around the neck. Make sure the muzzle is snug enough that your dog can't pull it off immediately, but also not too tight.

Give your dog treats quickly and constantly for the entire time the muzzle is on. Keep the sessions short — 20 seconds to start with. When you can easily place the muzzle on your dog, and clip it; proceed to the next step.



Note: If you notice that the muzzle seems to be chafing or looks uncomfortable, check to be sure that you are using the right size. If the size is correct, consider loosening the muzzle for training – you can fit it snugly, later, when your dog feels more comfortable with the muzzle.

Step 5. Getting your dog used to wearing the muzzle

Gradually increase the time your dog spends wearing the muzzle. At first, it should be no longer than a few minutes.

Put the muzzle on your dog and immediately begin to reward it with treats while the muzzle is on. Take your dog for a short walk while your dog is wearing the muzzle. Reward at regular intervals. Do not remove the muzzle until you are back from the walk.

Have the dog wear the muzzle for all walks. Your dog should look forward to being muzzled at this point, because it predicts a walk. Give the dog treats frequently during walks.



Note: If your dog starts to paw at the muzzle, keep the dog moving and reward more often. Do not remove the muzzle while your dog is pawing at it. If the dog gets very uncomfortable, wait until it stops pawing at the muzzle, even for a few seconds (feed treats to distract, if necessary), and then remove the muzzle and end the session. In the next session, reduce the amount of time your dog wears the muzzle.

9 Your dog should eventually be comfortable enough to wear the muzzle for a few hours at a time.

Step 6. Fitting the muzzle

Once your dog is comfortable with wearing the muzzle, adjust the muzzle according to instructions on page 4.

If needed, use the connecting strap and/or collar, provided in the package, to prevent the neck strap from sliding over your dog's head.

Make sure your dog can drink, breathe and even pant, while wearing the muzzle!



Note: Never leave your dog unattended when wearing the muzzle!

If you have any questions or need help with adjusting the muzzle, feel free to contact us at:

support@goodboytraining.com



GoodBoy