

Muzzle Game



Step 1: Buy a basket muzzle for your dog; make sure it is the right size by bringing your dog with you when you go purchase it. Basket muzzle are recommended because they allow the dog to pant while wearing it and allow treats to be given and the dog to eat them. With this type of muzzle the dog cannot bite.

Step 2: Place the muzzle on the ground with some treats in it. Let the dog walk over to it and eat the treats out of the muzzle, do not force him. If he is not comfortable eating them out of the muzzle throw the treats near the muzzle first. Repeat this procedure a few times until the dog takes the treats from the muzzle without hesitation.

Step 3: Offer treats in the muzzle while holding the muzzle in your hand. The dog should put his nose in the muzzle to go get the treats. Do not clip the muzzle. Another technique is to put some peanut butter or cheese spread at the bottom end of the muzzle and then let the dog go lick it. Repeat this procedure until the dog willingly places his nose in the muzzle to get the treats without hesitation. At all times let the dog come towards the muzzle do not bring the muzzle closer to him.

Step 4: Repeat step 3 but then clip the muzzle on for a few seconds while continuing to feed treats. After unclip the muzzle. Repeat this procedure a few times. Leave the muzzle clipped for 1 minute, then 5 minutes, then 10 minutes and then 15 minutes while periodically offering treats. The dog should remain calm throughout the entire procedure. If the dog is too fearful to move on to the next step just repeat the previous step a few more times and then try moving on again.

Step 5: At home, put on the muzzle periodically for 15 min intervals and then take it off. It is important to make the dog wear the muzzle even when you are not manipulating him or doing a procedure on him. He must not associate the muzzle with only negative things. Therefore try putting the muzzle on him before you go sit on the couch or while you are cooking supper for example.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at the number below or contact Dr. Vicky Sedgwick by e-mail at vicky.sedgwick@hvovet.com.

🗨️ **Consult our website for more information on canine and feline behavior.**

GOOD LUCK !

