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Recommendations on Muzzle Training your Dog

Dogs wear muzzles for a variety of reasons, it doesn't have to mean they are bad-tempered. They may wear a muzzle because they are sensitive to new places or noises, overly rambunctious, in pain, eats rocks or other things that can hurt them, or maybe he doesn't play well with strange kids, adults or other pets. Whatever the case may be, muzzle training is a valuable tool to keep your dog and everyone around him safe.

What do you mean by Muzzle Training?

The goal of muzzle training is to teach your dog that wearing a muzzle means good things. Muzzle time = Party time! He may learn to associate it with lots of treats or praise, or maybe he knows when it comes on that he gets to go for a walk around the neighborhood. After the positive association with wearing a muzzle is created, when he is in a situation where he has to wear one for safety (getting a nail trim, going to the vet, or meeting a new playmate) it won't add to his stress or excitement and help to keep him in a calmer frame of mind.

You are doing your dog a huge benefit by getting him comfortable with wearing a muzzle before he is in a situation where it is necessary to wear one!

Step by Step: You may need to repeat each step several times before moving on to the next

1. Place the muzzle on the ground in front of your dog. Let him/her sniff it and check it out. Encourage them to do so by placing food/small treats around the muzzle.
2. Hold the muzzle and encourage your dog to place their nose in the muzzle by offering a treat through the muzzle. Use food and vocal rewards frequently.
3. Ask your dog to place their nose in the muzzle, secure the straps behind his ears and then give him a treat and praise, then release the latch removing the muzzle. Slowly increase the amount of time they are wearing the muzzle.

Tips and Tricks:

- Keep it fun! Give yummy treats, play with toys, cuddle or take your pup to their favorite place to practice muzzle training.
- Be Patient! It's more important to build a positive association with the muzzle than how quickly they adapt to wearing one. Frequent short training sessions are more beneficial than one long session. If your dog seems uncomfortable, go back a step.
- Fit is important! During training, use a basket style muzzle with a treat opening at the end. Your dog should be able to drink water, take treats, and pant easily while wearing a muzzle. Fabric or grooming style muzzles should never be worn without supervision or for an extended period of time.
- Always end on a positive note! Remember the goal is to make training a fun, positive experience, do not continue the session if your dog seems uncomfortable or you feel yourself getting frustrated.

For training videos, muzzle decoration ideas, or more visit <https://muzzleupproject.com>