

All About Basket Muzzles:

Training, Uses, & more...



What is a basket muzzle?

- A basket muzzle is a tool used to cover a dog's nose and mouth. It is exactly what it sounds like, a basket frame that covers these areas for a number of reasons.
- The basket muzzle is designed to still allow a dog full freedom of motion with their nose/mouth. They are still able to smell, drink, eat, and pant all in a natural way without restricting their jaw or ability to open their mouth fully.
- Basket muzzles are one of the safest muzzle designs out there since alternatives usually hinder the dogs ability to exhibit natural behaviors (drink, pant, etc.). This is why alternatives should only ever be used for short amounts of time.

Why use a muzzle?

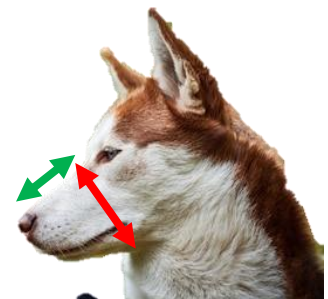
- Muzzles are used for a variety of reasons, but are most often associated with preventing bites that could significantly injure another dog, animal, or human.
- Muzzles can prevent a dog from getting into something they shouldn't eat (rocks, feces, road kill, etc.).
- Muzzles are also a tool used for dogs who may be fearful at the vet but still require medical attention.
- Muzzles are a safety tool. They are used to protect everyone, including the dog wearing the muzzle.

How to properly fit a muzzle:

- The **GREEN** arrow indicates the length of your dogs muzzle.
- The **RED** arrow indicates the width measurement (measuring around the circumference of the entire muzzle at its widest point)

Important note: the **RED** arrow should be measured both when the mouth is **closed** and when it is **open** to allow the dog room to pant & open the dogs mouth fully.

When fitted properly the muzzle should comfortably sit under the eyes and have room in below the chin to allow the dog to pant, but not be loose enough for the dog to pull it off. The back neck strap should be tight to their head and strapped at the base of your dog's ears. You should be able to fit only one finger between the strap and your dog's neck. Some muzzle's come with an additional strap that connects the top of the muzzle to the strap on the back of their neck.



How to train a dog to wear a muzzle:

- Target train the dog to touch the muzzle. It should be seen as a neutral or even "good" thing in their mind as you will reward heavily for their interaction with it. Work up their interaction with the muzzle.
- Proceed slowly into having them target the inside of the muzzle, beginning to place their nose in for a few seconds at a time. Work towards moving the straps near their head and getting your dog used to your hands being above their head/ears. Clip the strap near the ears even if not fitted properly to get them used to the clipping noise the strap will make when the muzzle is fully on.
- Once your dog will put the muzzle on almost entirely by themselves, strap the muzzle on fully, properly fitted and all, and reward. Remove it after a couple of seconds. Slowly increase the timeframe the dog is wearing the muzzle until they are able to wear it during a short walk. Then a longer walk, and so on and so forth.