

## **6 Easy Steps to Teaching Your Dog to Comfortably Wear a Muzzle**



Learning to comfortably wear a muzzle can be a useful skill for many dogs, especially those with aggression issues. Here's how to teach your dog to happily and comfortably wear a basket-type muzzle.

Use high value food treats, and make sure your dog is hungry.

The following steps are meant to be done one at a time over several days, not all at once. Take a break (4 hours or more) between practice sessions.

Advance to the next step in the sequence only when the dog is completely comfortable with the current one.

- 1. Show the muzzle to the dog and feed him some treats.*
- 2. Place some treats inside the muzzle and allow the dog to eat from it.*
- 3. Hold the muzzle in front of the dog, open side facing him, and feed him treats through the holes when he puts his face inside.*
- 4. Once your dog is eagerly sticking his face into the muzzle to get the treats, hold the straps of the muzzle in place behind his head with one hand, as you feed him feed him treats through the muzzle with your other hand.*
- 5. Fasten the straps in place for a few seconds then feed him some treats through the holes.*
- 6. Gradually have him wear the muzzle for longer periods, lengthening the time between treats.*

It is normal for a dog to paw at the muzzle and/or rub his head on the floor at first. Ignore this behavior and focus his attention on the food. If the dog will not eat the food, you're probably moving through the steps too quickly. Go back a step or two, and slow down.

Canine Dimensions specializes in Fear, Reactivity and Aggression. For more information about training please contact Audi Novak at Canine Dimensions; [audi@caninedimensionsdenver.com](mailto:audi@caninedimensionsdenver.com); 303-456-1982.