

In-house Behavior Modification Protocol
Basket Muzzle Desensitization

Protocol used to desensitize a dog to wear a basket muzzle.

Step one

Put 2-3 pieces of a high value treat inside the muzzle.

While holding the muzzle in your hand - present it to the dog so that he/she can stick his/her nose into the muzzle to eat the treats.

Repeat this 3-4 times per session. Do 2-3 sessions each day

Step two

Rub some sticky food substance (peanut butter, canned cat food, etc.) inside the front of the muzzle in the area where the dog can lick it easily.

While holding the muzzle in your hand - present it to the dog so that he/she will stick his/her nose inside to lick the sticky food. Allow the dog time to lick all of the sticky food from the muzzle.

Repeat this 3-4 times per session. Do 2-3 sessions each day

Step three

Once the dog comfortably sticks his/her nose into the muzzle to lick the pasty food - fasten the buckle behind the head in a high position - just under the ears. It should be snug enough that you can just get one finger snugly under the strap when it's fastened.

Do a few sessions where you fasten the muzzle while the dog is licking the pasty food.

Step four

Repeat the process above and once the dog is done licking the food paste - take him/her for a walk. Offer the dog treats through the muzzle every few feet at first. With each subsequent walk – offer fewer and fewer treats.

For dogs with short muzzles - purchase a muzzle that has an extra strap that goes from the top of the nose part of the muzzle, up over the head, and connects to the neck strap (see directions in box).