



Muzzle Course Wrap Up!

Awesome Job Everyone!

Here are Some Tips for Maintaining Your Dog's Muzzle Skills:

Keep Playing the Games!

Now that you've made it through the course material and your dog is happily wearing the muzzle.... You will need to maintain her love of the muzzle.

Give yourself five to fifteen minutes, two to three days each week to play "muzzle games!"

Every time you want your dog to wear the muzzle, **ALWAYS** start with **Dog's Choice**. If your dog will **NOT** put her nose in the muzzle, regardless of the reason, **STOP**. Give your dog a 15-minute break, and try again. Allowing your dog to **ALWAYS** make the choice to put the muzzle on, gives her the control and all animals **LOVE** control.

After starting each session with **Dog's Choice**, set your timer and **DO THINGS WITH YOUR DOG**. Depending on where you need her to wear her muzzle, in your home, outside, or both, will determine where you focus. If you only need her to wear it inside, then use it inside your home **MANY, MANY** times before you actually need her to wear it. I'd love your dog to wear her muzzle inside your home, 15 – 25 times **BEFORE** you need her to wear it in a situation you are concerned about.

If you only need her to wear her muzzle outside, then put your focus outside and have her wear it 15 – 25 times in a variety of settings outside.

The reason for having her wear it 15 – 25 times **BEFORE** you actually need her to wear it is to build a solid history of **FUN, HIGH REWARDS, and HAPPY CONDITIONING**.

If you don't build enough Muzzle predicts FUN and FOOD, there is a risk that the muzzle will become the *predictor* of the scary thing, either guests in your home or possibly other dogs, or people outside.

Need your dog to wear the muzzle at the veterinarian's office? Go play muzzle games in the vet's parking lot, in their lobby (call ahead and ask of course) and even in an exam room with the vet staff's permission. Do all of this at times that your dog does NOT NEED to be seen by the vet.

Special Note: If your dog is too stressed at the vet's office (or any other environment) to eat and play the muzzle games, this is not a good strategy for your dog. She is too frightened and you risk undoing your great muzzle work.

One idea might be to set a goal of playing muzzle games in one new place each week if having your dog wear the muzzle in a variety of contexts is important to you.

We are so happy that you've completed the course!
Great work and go have fun with your dog!