



Out in the World!

Lesson Instructions & Troubleshooting

Goal: The goal of this module is to begin to take your dog to comfortable and familiar places away from your property and home, and begin to play muzzle games. Your dog needs to wear her muzzle in different environments.

Up until now, we've played muzzle games and started wearing the muzzle around the house and around your property, and it's time to go out in the world.

Start in places that your dog is comfortable and familiar with, i.e. a favorite park, walking route or another place you might frequent to play or train. You will always start your muzzle work with a quick round or two of It's the Dog's Choice and build from there.

Once your dog has the muzzle on, begin by asking for simple behaviors; walk a few steps, sit, do a favorite trick, etc. just like we did in the previous module. Keep your sessions short, 3-5 minutes is plenty to start.

As you see in the video lesson for this module (around 13:08) some dogs will have a hard time, in the beginning stages, eliminating with the muzzle on. Denise's dog Gio is clearly behaving like he is going to "mark" on the tree, but he can't quite do it yet while wearing the muzzle. This is a predictable part of the process and the ability to eliminate with the muzzle on will come in time.

What You Will Need:

- Your basket muzzle
- A hungry dog
- Delicious, high-value food that is cut in cubes that are large enough that they are easy for you to handle. Examples include:
 - Chicken, hot dogs, cheese, steak, pork chops, homemade liver or fish treats. Store purchased MEAT BALLS are awesome.

Summary of the Game:

- Start these games in places your dog is comfortable and familiar.
- Set a timer for 3 minutes.
- Offer your dog the muzzle and allow her to make the choice.
- Fasten the straps and feed her.
- NOW ask for a simple behavior (i.e. sit or walk one step)
- Once your dog completes the behavior – FEED GENEROUSLY **no less than 5 pieces.**
- Repeat – ask for a simple behavior and FEED GENEROUSLY, **no less than 5 pieces.**
- Repeat the above and be sure to ask for different behaviors .
- WORK AT YOUR DOGS PACE. Don't push if the dog is pawing at the muzzle.
- As your dog becomes more comfortable moving around and “doing stuff” in new environments with the muzzle on, you can increase the difficulty of the game **SLOWLY** by asking the dog to walk more steps or perform 2 behaviors before reinforcing her.
- As your dog gets more comfortable being out in the world with her muzzle on you can:
 - Increase the length of time you are out for – go slow!
 - Visit a variety of places

Game Guidelines:

- Keep each training session short, 3-5 minutes is plenty – use a timer!
- Play the game each day.
- Use high value food - \$100 bills, not quarters.
- Be generous with treats. You'll get better results, FASTER.
- When not playing Muzzle Games, keep the muzzle out of sight and out of reach.
- Don't use food that crumbles or easily drops on the ground.

Game Troubleshooting:

- If your dog starts pawing at or otherwise fussing with the muzzle once you start asking for behaviors:
 - You can interrupt the fussing by gently picking your dog's head up
 - Be sure to NOT feed until the dog has at least 5 seconds of NO fussing.
 - Ask for easier/shorter behaviors (i.e. walk less steps)
 - Use higher value food.

- Be MORE GENEROUS. This is not a time to be stingy and think she should just “get it.”
- If the fussing continues each time you ask for a behavior (3 x in a row), you may consider going back to the previous module of wearing the muzzle around your yard or house until our dog is more comfortable

An Important Note: We don't know why people need to do it, but sometimes when we have been out with dogs in muzzles, other people feel the need to say weird or nasty things – like we are doing something terrible to the dog. If this happens to you, let it roll! You are doing this for your dog!