



Basket Muzzle Guidelines & Safety

Basket Muzzle Safety

Basket muzzles are a wonderful tool. When your dog is wearing a basket muzzle your stress level will be reduced and you can be calmer and more effective with your training. Basket muzzles can give your dog more freedom in the world and can be a very helpful aid to a training program. While this course is designed to promote the safe & appropriate use of basket muzzles, there are some guidelines that are important and must be followed to keep your dog and others safe.

Common Uses

The most common reasons to use a basket muzzle include: a dog with a bite history either to people or other dogs, possibly a resident dog. A dog that you are worried is going to bite either a person or another dog. In both these cases the basket muzzle is used to prevent bites. Basket muzzles can also be used to keep dogs from ingesting foreign objects

Disclaimer

Please be advised that the use of a basket muzzle does not guarantee safety when working or living with a dog who has aggression issues. We are happy to share this very effective protocol with you to help your dog learn to happily and comfortably wear a basket muzzle, however, judgment for safe and appropriate use, type of muzzle applied, and proper fit ultimately fall to the owner of the dog. Everything Dog does not assume any responsibility for injuries sustained to humans or animals due to the use of a basket muzzle.

Basket Muzzle Do's

- Use this protocol to teach your dog to happily and comfortably wear the basket muzzle.
- Be patient throughout the training process. Every dog learns at a different pace and rushing through the steps will not help you to achieve your goals.

- Be sure that the basket muzzle you have chosen fits properly and securely. We provide you with some basic fitting information and you should also carefully read and follow the manufacturer's fitting instructions that come with the basket muzzle you are choosing to use.
- Use the basket muzzle as a training aid to your dog's fear or aggression training program.
- Have fun working on this protocol with your dog. It's just a silly training game!

Basket Muzzle Don'ts

- Do not rely on the basket muzzle as the solution to your fear and aggression problem. Basket muzzles are best used in combination with a training program and/or behavior modification program.
- Never leave a dog unattended with a basket muzzle on. This includes going to sleep while your dog wears basket muzzle or going to work.
- Do not trust the basket muzzle completely. Dogs can still cause injury or damage while wearing one and, even when properly fit, they can slip it off. Be vigilant and have a back up plan (i.e. keep your dog leashed).
- Do not use the basket muzzle as a replacement for a crate or other management tool
- Do not use the basket muzzle as a way to get dogs to stop fighting. This could result in injury or can cause the fighting to escalate. The basket muzzle combined with management and an effective training plan is the best way to address this type of situation.
- Do not use a "tube" or groomer's style muzzle for more than a few minutes at a time. These muzzles prevent effective panting and can cause your dog to dangerously overheat even when it is not hot out. A basket muzzle is a better choice.
- Do not use a basket muzzle to try and stop problem barking. This is not a safe or appropriate use of any muzzle.
- Do not use a basket muzzle for off-leash play. Keeping your dog leashed and with you is the best way to supervise him.