



CDTS
Cranbourne Dog
Training School

"Positively the best- for you and your dog"

Contact Gail Ward
Tel: 01344 891771
Mob: 07711 532210
Email: enquiry@cdts.co.uk



MUZZLE TRAINING

Muzzles are usually associated with stressful events such as visits to the vet. The basis of muzzle training is to teach your dog to have a positive experience in association with the muzzle rather than a negative one. This is done by introducing the muzzle slowly and in non-threatening situations and also by using rewards to reinforce positive associations with muzzle wearing.

The type of muzzle that we recommend is the "Baskerville" muzzle or the Baskerville ultra which is easier to post treats through. These types of muzzles allow dogs to breathe easily, and to pant if they need to. They also have the advantage of having an 'open basket' type of structure allowing you to still reward your dog for appropriate behaviour when he or she is wearing the muzzle.

To get your dog used to wearing a muzzle, smear a bit of cream cheese in the bottom of the muzzle, and let your dog investigate it. He or she will smell the food in the muzzle, and hopefully put their nose into it themselves to lick out the cheese. On no account try and put your dog's nose in the muzzle! Be patient and if necessary smear some more cheese slightly nearer the front so your dog doesn't have to put his nose so far in.

Continue to do this until your dog will happily spend 30 seconds or so either licking the cheese. Then try 'posting' a treat through the bottom of the muzzle from the outside, and allow your dog to eat this while you are praising him. Introduce the word 'muzzle' as you post the treat through the bottom.

Then go back to smearing cheese on the bottom of the muzzle and start to hold the sides of the muzzle against your dog's cheeks, praising as you do so but do not yet attempt to do it up.

Over a period of days get your dog used to the sensation of the sides of the muzzle against his cheeks then bring the ends together behind his ears but do not do up. If your dog panics, go back a step until he is comfortable again.

Eventually you should be able to clip the muzzle on loosely, praise and take it off again whilst your dog is busy eating food that's been smeared in the bottom.

Once this is established, you can then start to get your dog to offer to put his nose in the muzzle. Hold the muzzle in one hand and have some food hidden in the other. Say the word 'muzzle' and hold the muzzle in front of your dog. He will naturally put his nose in as he will be expecting to find food in the bottom of it. As his nose goes in, say 'yes' and post a treat through the bottom of the muzzle. Do this lots of times and then build up to being able to praise for a few seconds before delivering food through the end of the muzzle. Do not have the food in front of your dog as a bribe, keep the food hidden otherwise your dog will only put his nose in if he can see the treat.



CDTS
Cranbourne Dog
Training School

"Positively the best- for you and your dog"

Contact Gail Ward
Tel: 01344 891771
Mob: 07711 532210
Email: enquiry@cdts.co.uk



Keep repeating this exercise, but on each occasion increase the praise before feeding. Then, start to put the straps along your dog's cheeks while continuing to praise. It might be easier at this stage to praise while the muzzle is in place, then say 'yes', take the muzzle off and give the treat. Remember, you are not doing it up at this stage.

Your next goal is to say 'muzzle', get your dog to put his nose in, praise while doing the muzzle up behind his ears, keep praising, then say 'yes', undo, remove and feed lots of treats, one after the other.

Progress to being able to leave the muzzle on for a little longer.

You can be stroking and praising while the muzzle is on. Then you need to encourage your dog to move with the muzzle on. It may be better to do this off lead and just encourage your dog to take a couple of steps towards you, say 'yes', remove muzzle and feed. Then, as he comes to you, praise for a few seconds before removing the muzzle and feeding.

Now is the time to put the lead on and encourage your dog to take more steps with you.

Try not to put the muzzle on at the same time or place every day, or your dog could start to anticipate it. Put the muzzle on, and take it off again, at different times of the day, and in different locations.

Once your dog is used to wearing the muzzle, you need to ensure the muzzle is properly fitted. The clasp around the neck should only allow one finger's width underneath it. Do this part slowly! Your dog will need to get used to the sensation of the muzzle being on fairly tightly. Once adjusted, if necessary the excess strap should be stitched so that the clasp is always at the right fitting.

Ultimately, the muzzle will be put on prior to walking and become associated with going for a walk. Remember it will take time to being able to progress to walking around the house in the muzzle to being able to walk outside in it, so to begin with, start in quiet locations (i.e. not in busy places around other dogs).

Do not put the muzzle on your dog in the car, always put it on just before you walk. You don't want to teach your dog to scrabble and scratch at the muzzle when you're not watching.

If you are having problems, please don't hesitate to call.

There are also a couple of good youtube videos with slightly different ways to muzzle train. Please see below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BjPpXer8IE>

https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/dogs-and-muzzle-training?fbclid=IwAR2PtRNVTSKZRSbRSNfGj7Sp8izrRv9nn_dThtWkzD-wyBHthdce9E1XzOO