

## Muzzle for Rewards – for immediate low stress care



It is **normal** for a dog to attempt to bite when they are in pain, or scared. Ear infections, eye problems, or in trauma dogs often attempt to bite when they receive care.

### **Making a muzzle fun, reduces the stress of this safety tool.**

Follow these steps at home, or at the veterinary office for safe, calm care – either nylon sleeve or basket type

# 1 . Draw up peanut butter, ham baby food, or other high valued food in a used syringe. Step on the leash to prevent the dog from pacing or hiding as you line the inside of the muzzle at the end with the food. Pacing and hiding increase stress.



#2 Present the muzzle backward so the dog is eating out of the front. You want the dog to know the food is at the end so he/she will want to put their face into the muzzle to get the food.

Use the same technique with basket muzzles



#3 Reload the muzzle, or if very food motivated turn muzzle around, place at Mouth level. Guide over the mouth as the dog puts face forward. Continue feeding. Buckle straps as dog eats. **Reward the dog for all the steps of muzzle application.**



#4 As you provide care , reward through the front of the muzzle continuously. You can reload the front with a large amount of food the dog will work through, Smear food on the wall or have a helper feed through the front of the muzzle



#5 When finished, the dog cleans up the muzzle to associate the muzzle itself With the rewards. Do not skip this step!!! The last memory is the lasting memory

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