

## Basket muzzle conditioning

1. Start by sitting in a chair and ask your dog to sit in front of you. Do not bend down, over, or toward the dog.
2. Smear the inside of the basket muzzle with a small amount of dog food, cheese spread, meat spread, squeeze cheese, or peanut butter. Hold the muzzle and let the dog lick it out.
3. When your dog has licked the muzzle clean, put more treats in and continue. When your dog is pushing its nose into the muzzle immediately to get the food, go to the next step.
4. Allow the pet to lick food out of the muzzle. While your dog is licking the food out, gently put the straps around the head and hold them there for less than 3 seconds while your dog eats. If your dog backs away, pull the muzzle toward you slightly and offer it again. Do not push the muzzle toward your dog.
5. Over multiple sessions, slowly increase the amount of time that you hold the straps and slowly progress to buckling and securing the muzzle.
6. Once you can buckle the muzzle, continue to feed your dog by pushing food through the openings of the muzzle for a few more seconds, then remove it.
7. Over the course of many sessions, gradually increase the time that your dog is wearing the muzzle.
8. The goal is for your dog to wear it for 10–15 minutes at home before you use it in stressful situations.