

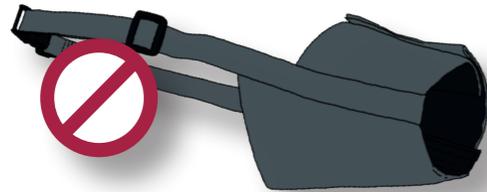
# PLEASE NOTE

## LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR MUZZLES ARE NOT MET IF ...

### ► ... there is risk of injury:

sharp edges, rivets not rounded

- ### ► ... the mouth is closed:
- snout straps are suitable for short-term use only, e.g. while receiving an injection at the vet's.



### ► ... there is low air permeability:

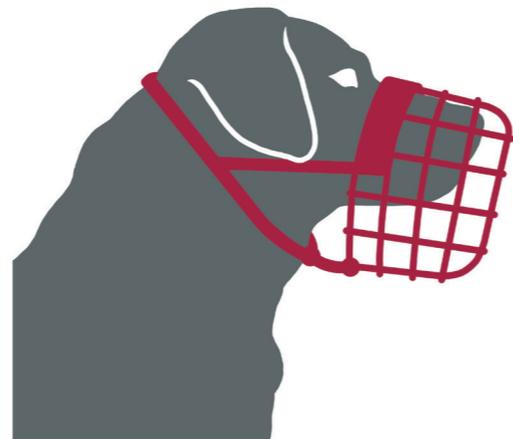
closed muzzles with few openings impede air circulation.



If a muzzle is used only when needed, e.g. at the vet's, a negative association will quickly develop that may lead to the dog no longer tolerating a muzzle. Ideally, dogs should be accustomed to wearing a muzzle while they are still puppies - see Muzzle Training.

# CORRECT

A dog must be able to open its mouth sufficiently wide to enable unimpeded panting and drinking. During periods of high temperature or extensive strain, the tongue must be unrestricted to allow thermoregulation.



## LEGAL STIPULATIONS

A muzzle must fit the size and shape of the dog's head and be permeable to air; it must allow the dog to pant and drink water.

[2. Regulation on Animal Keeping, Appendix 1 cipher 1.1.6]

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## The appropriate MUZZLE for your dog



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# MUZZLE

## A SIMPLE NECESSITY

Every dog faces situations where it has to wear a muzzle (e.g. visit to the vet, public transport, municipalities with muzzle regulations).

Although a muzzle will always restrict a dog, it is part of the basic equipment needed for every dog. Regular positive training, including treats, will ensure that the dog willingly wears a muzzle.

## TYPES OF MUZZLES & MATERIALS

### Muzzles made of plastic or biothane

... are lightweight, easy to clean and very comfortable.

### Muzzles of leather

... are more difficult to clean and have an inherent odour. When wet they may harden and become brittle.

They should be vegetable tanned.

### Muzzles of metal

... are heavier but dogs cannot bite through them.

### Quick-release locks

... are quick to fasten but sometimes open by themselves.

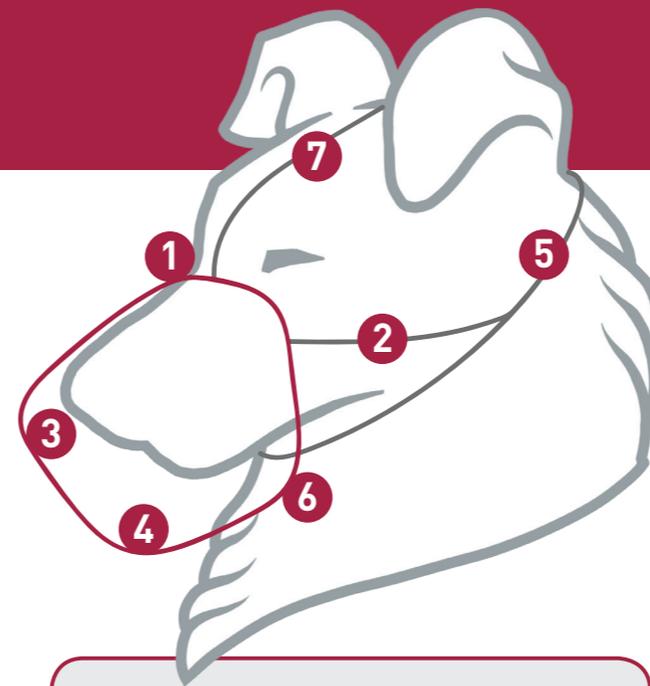
### Buckles

... are safer but take slightly longer to fasten.



## HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT MUZZLE

- ▶ **1** The weight of the muzzle should be supported by the bridge of the nose.
- ▶ **2** The muzzle should touch the jaw only lightly and must not chafe.
- ▶ Areas 1 and 2 should be padded if a dog is to wear the muzzle for a longer period.
- ▶ **3** The device should never rest on the dog's nose or fang. The distance between the muzzle and the dog's nose should be at least 1 cm.
- ▶ **4** In the front (nose), the muzzle should be deep enough to allow even heavy panting – see Fig. „Correct“
- ▶ **5** It is only possible to ensure safe fastening in the upper neck region if the dog cannot remove the muzzle on its own when the lock is fastened. Make sure there is no position where the strap compresses or touches too tightly.
- ▶ **6** The muzzle must not press against the larynx or the trachea.
- ▶ **7** A forehead strap prevents the muzzle from sliding over the snout.



Customized products are available for dogs that standard muzzles do not fit.

LOOK OUT FOR THE ANIMAL WELFARE LABEL



The Animal Welfare Label guarantees compliance with legal animal welfare provisions. Muzzles awarded the Animal Welfare Label can be found here:

[www.tierschutzkonform.at](http://www.tierschutzkonform.at)

## MUZZLE TRAINING IS FUN

**Step 1:** Regularly feed your dog attractive treats from inside the muzzle. Squeeze-tube treats and small pieces of food are best suited. At first, the reward should be within easy reach. At a more advanced stage, dogs should be allowed to put their entire snout into the muzzle. It is important to let the dog set the pace. Never force a muzzle on your dog.

**Step 2:** Increase the duration of the time for which the dog voluntarily puts its snout into the muzzle by rewarding it with treats that you feed through the mesh.

**Step 3:** Only when your dog is happy to put its snout into the muzzle and voluntarily leaves it there should you fasten the neck strap.

Before finally fastening the muzzle, you should prepare your dog by stroking it along the neck and by feeding treats simultaneously with the clicking noise of the lock several times.

**Step 4:** Repeat step 2 with a closed neck strap several times before encouraging your dog to do simple exercises, such as „sit“ and „come here“. Wearing the muzzle should still be lavishly rewarded. You have progressed too fast if defensive reactions, such as throwing off the muzzle, occur. Make the exercises simpler and increase the number of treats.

Plan several days of training for each step. The time wearing the muzzle should be extended only gradually, from seconds to minutes.