

Basic Training in Muzzle Consulting

Modules 1-8

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Basic training

Muzzle advice

Modules 1-8

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MODULE 1 - Basics, areas of application & role of the muzzle advisor

1.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- explain why muzzles make sense in terms of animal welfare,
- name typical areas of application (medicine, training, law, everyday situations),
- Clearly distinguish muzzles from training tools,
- Understand your own role as a muzzle consultant at Caniseguros (ethics & responsibility).

1.1 Why a muzzle at all?

A muzzle is not a "punitive instrument", but a safety and protection tool:

- protects people and other animals from bites,
- protects the dog from itself (e.g. in case of food addiction / poison bait),
- enables situations that would be too dangerous without a muzzle.

Important:

A muzzle does not replace training, medical evaluation and owner responsibility. It just creates a safe environment in which to act and train.

1.2 Typical areas of application

1.2.1 Medical situations

A muzzle can be necessary and useful in many medical situations:

Acute treatments:

Visit to the vet, wound care, injections, changing bandages, painful examinations. The dog cannot escape the situation and has to endure pain or unpleasant manipulation. A well-fitting muzzle protects staff, owners and the dog itself.

Chronic/recurring situations:

Dogs with chronic pain (e.g. osteoarthritis, back problems, neurological diseases, epilepsy), dogs that require regular medical manipulations (e.g. bandage changes, eye drops, ear cleaning), dogs that wake up from anesthesia and are disoriented or irritable, dogs that repeatedly remove bandages, funnels or bodysuits. A muzzle can prevent the dog from snapping or harming itself out of pain, fear or overwhelm. It enables safe care without permanently restraining the dog more tightly than necessary.

1.2.2 Everyday life & poison bait

Another major area of application is everyday and environmental situations:

- Walks in areas with a known danger of poison bait,
- Dogs that eat everything they find ("vacuum cleaner dogs")
- Dogs prone to risky ingestions (garbage, carrion, feces, stones). With a suitable muzzle (possibly with anti-feeding conversions) you can:
 - the absorption of foreign bodies can be significantly reduced or prevented,
 - In parallel, anti-eating training and reliable stop signals should be worked on. The muzzle does not replace training here either, but it does provide peace of mind that the dog is better protected in the meantime.

1.2.3 Training & Behavioral Problems

Muzzles are an important tool when dealing with:

- insecure, fearful or quickly overwhelmed dogs,
- Dogs with a history of biting incidents,

- Dogs with clear intent to cause damage
- Dogs that are difficult to control in certain situations (e.g. resource defense, dog-dog conflicts, human-dog conflicts).

A muzzle:

- protects the environment (people, other animals),
- protects the dog from the consequences of a bite,
- creates a safe framework in which meaningful training can take place. Important: Muzzles are not a substitute for behavioral medical evaluation or training. They are a safety component that makes training possible and safer for everyone involved.

1.3 Delimitation: Muzzle is not a training tool

Muzzles are protection and safety tools - they are not intended to punish or "settle" the dog.

Examples that do not comply with animal welfare are: E.g.:

- Muzzles that are deliberately adjusted so tightly that the dog can no longer pant,
- Muzzles that are intended to cause permanent pain
- the use of the muzzle as a threat ("if you do that, you will be muzzled").

A muzzle used fairly:

- enables panting, drinking and behavior that is as normal as possible,
- is built up gradually and positively,
- is only worn for as long as it is really necessary for the situation.

1.4 Role of the muzzle advisor at Caniseguros

Muzzle consultants at Caniseguros are not just salespeople, but rather experts in animal welfare, safety and fit.

Your goal is always to find a solution that:

- protects the dog as best as possible (panting, breathing, skin health, choice of material),
- reliably protects people and other animals,

- legal requirements (muzzle requirement, owner obligations) are taken into account,
- and can be realistically implemented for the owners' everyday lives. Selling a muzzle is the result of good advice, not the main goal. The focus is always on: the safety and well-being of the dog as well as the safety of the environment.

1.5 Communication of boundaries

Consultants must communicate clearly and transparently:

- A muzzle does not cure a behavior problem. It prevents injuries and creates a safe framework for training, management and medical interventions.
- A muzzle should never be adjusted so that the dog can no longer pant. That would be contrary to animal welfare and dangerous to health.
- Some cases require additional support, e.g. B. by trainers, behavioral veterinarians or veterinarians.

Example sentences for advice:

- "The muzzle doesn't solve the problem, it just prevents someone from getting hurt while you work on the cause with training and medical evaluation."
- "A muzzle should not stop your dog from panting. We make sure that he is safe - but can still breathe well and feel comfortable."
- "For this dog, I also recommend involving a trainer and your veterinarian so that we really cover all aspects." This means that the professional, animal welfare-oriented role of the muzzle consultant is clearly defined from the start.

MODULE 2 - Medical aspects & risks when wearing a muzzle

2.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- explain why panting is vital for dogs,
- identify medical risks of poorly fitting or unsuitable muzzles,
- detect typical skin and tissue damage caused by incorrect fit,
- know when a veterinary examination is necessary before using a muzzle,
- clearly distinguish their role in medical issues from the role of a veterinarian.

2.1 Panting & Thermoregulation

Dogs regulate their body temperature almost exclusively by panting. By quickly inhaling and exhaling through the mouth and tongue, moisture evaporates, cooling the body. In contrast to humans, dogs can only sweat to a very limited extent through their skin. A muzzle that severely restricts panting is therefore a significant risk from a medical perspective. Problems arise in particular if the dog:

- can't open the mouth wide enough,
- cannot stick out the tongue properly,
- overall there is too little air circulation.

The consequences can be:

- overheating and even heat stroke,
- strong circulatory strain,
- Loss of performance, weakness, collapse. That's why it's a must in every fit check to check whether the dog can visibly pant and stick out its tongue with the muzzle on - especially when it's hot or under physical strain.

2.2 Pressure points, skin & pressure sores

Poorly fitting muzzles can cause pressure and chafing on various parts of the head, especially on the bridge of the nose, on the cheeks, under the straps and in the throatlatch area.

Possible consequences are:

- redness and irritation of the skin,
- hair breakage and bald spots,
- chafed, weeping areas,
- chronic inflammatory skin changes,
- deep pressure ulcers (decubitus),
- in extreme cases, tissue death (necrosis). Moisture (saliva, water, rain) and dirt can exacerbate the problem. Once the skin barrier is damaged, the risk of bacterial infections, fungal infections and so-called superinfections increases. Consultants should therefore always document existing old pressure points and pay particular attention to them when selecting the model, size and upholstery.

2.3 Respiratory system & heat stress

In addition to thermoregulation via panting, the respiratory tract itself plays a major role. Brachycephalic dogs in particular (short-snouted breeds such as pugs or French bulldogs) often have a limited breathing reserve anyway. An unsuitable muzzle can make airflow even more difficult.

Possible problems:

- additional resistance when inhaling and exhaling,
- Narrowing in the area of the nose or mouth opening,
- increased work of breathing, especially in heat or stress. When outside temperatures are high, the metal or surface of the muzzle can also heat up significantly. Dark, rubberized or heavily coated muzzles often become significantly warmer in the sun than light or bare metal surfaces.

Advisors should therefore point out to owners:

- not to leave the muzzle lying in the blazing sun,
- Before putting it on, briefly check the temperature of the muzzle with your hand,

- For dogs that are very exposed to the sun, choose lighter or less heat-absorbing surfaces.

2.4 Other medical aspects

Pain is an important factor: dogs in pain are more likely to react with defensive behavior or bite. A muzzle can be an important safety component here, but it can never replace the clarification and treatment of the cause of the pain. Neurological diseases (e.g. epilepsy, certain brain diseases) can lead to seizures, impaired consciousness or sudden loss of control. In such phases, a muzzle sometimes makes sense to protect staff, owners and the dog itself. At the same time, the underlying disease must always be clarified and treated by a veterinarian. Circulatory problems (e.g. dogs with circulatory problems) can react more sensitively to stress, heat and strain. A poorly fitting muzzle can significantly increase the risk of circulatory collapse. In such cases, particular caution is required and a veterinary assessment is advisable.

2.5 Medical contraindications / veterinary requirement

In certain situations it is essential to obtain a veterinary assessment before using a muzzle. Advisors are not allowed to give the all-clear or decide independently that a muzzle is harmless.

Examples of contraindications or veterinary requirements:

- known heart or severe lung diseases,
- Suspicion of neurological diseases with a tendency to collapse or seizures,
- significant shortness of breath even without a muzzle,
- recent operations or injuries to the head, neck, mouth, nose or throat,
- severe brachycephalic respiratory problems. In such cases, the recommendation should be to involve the treating veterinarian before using a muzzle in everyday life or during training.

A possible wording suggestion for consultants is:

"Due to previous illnesses or breathing problems, it is important that your veterinarian approves the use of the muzzle. Only then do we finally adjust the muzzle."

2.6 Role of the consultant on medical issues

Muzzle consultants work at the interface between animal protection, practical everyday life and medicine, without being veterinarians themselves. This means:

- You recognize typical risks (panting, pressure points, breathing problems) and address them,
- they adapt models and sizes so that medical risks are reduced as much as possible,
- However, they do not make any diagnoses or treatment decisions - that remains the responsibility of veterinary medicine. Close collaboration with veterinary practices makes a lot of sense: consultants can advise practice teams on muzzle choice, fit and training, while veterinarians make medical decisions.

2.7 Key statements Module 2

- Panting is vital for dogs - muzzles should not significantly restrict it.
- Poorly fitting muzzles can cause significant skin and tissue damage, including pressure sores and necrosis.
- Brachycephalic dogs and dogs with health problems require special care and often veterinary clearance.
- Heat, choice of material and surface temperature of the muzzle must be taken into account in the consultation.
- Muzzle consultants work with medical information, but not as veterinarians - they recognize risks and refer people if necessary.

MODULE 3 - Myths, communication & owner psychology

3.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- recognize common myths and prejudices surrounding muzzles,
- refute these technically correctly and at the same time empathetically,
- react appropriately to typical emotions and fears of owners,
- develop a clear, calm and professional communication style,

3.1 Typical myths about the muzzle

Many reservations about muzzles are emotionally charged. As a muzzle consultant, it is important to know these myths and be prepared for them.

Common examples include:

- "Only dangerous dogs wear muzzles."
- "With a muzzle my dog becomes more aggressive."
- "Muzzle is animal cruelty."
- "My dog won't put up with something like that."
- "With a muzzle, people laugh at us."
- "When the muzzle is on, I don't have to train anymore." These sentences are rarely meant to be purely factual. Behind this there is often shame, insecurity, fear of evaluation and lack of knowledge about what a well-fitted muzzle can achieve.

3.2 Technical classification of the most important myths

"Only dangerous dogs wear muzzles." In fact, many dogs wear muzzles even though they have never bitten anyone. Reasons include, for example, legal regulations, the risk of poison bait, medical situations or responsibility in everyday life (e.g. in densely populated areas, on public transport or during unsafe encounters). The muzzle is a safety tool - not a "seal of danger". "With a muzzle my dog becomes more aggressive." In practice, the opposite turns out to be the case: when owners feel safer because a bite is no longer possible, they become calmer and clearer in their actions. Dogs are very oriented towards people - less tension in humans often leads to less tension in dogs. It is crucial that the muzzle fits well and does not hurt. "Muzzle is animal cruelty." A poorly fitting muzzle that prevents panting or causes pain can be relevant to animal welfare. A well-fitted muzzle, on the other hand, allows panting and drinking and as normal communication as possible. It protects dogs and the environment - and is therefore more of an animal protection tool than animal cruelty. "My dog won't put up with something like that." Many dogs initially find muzzles unusual. That's normal. With a calm, small-step approach and positive association, the vast majority of dogs accept the muzzle well. Resistance at the beginning is not a sign that the dog "can never learn," but rather an indication that training and habituation are necessary. "With a muzzle, people laugh at us." The focus here is on the owner's concern about being judged or misjudged. But a muzzle can also send the signal: "Someone is taking responsibility here." Many people now see muzzles as a sign of professionalism and caution. "When the muzzle is on, I don't have to train anymore." The muzzle prevents injuries, but it does not automatically change the underlying behavior. It's a seatbelt, not an autopilot. Training, management and, if necessary, medical evaluation remain important if a dog exhibits behavioral problems.

3.3 Example answers in customer dialogue

It's not enough to just be technically right - what matters is how the message is received by holders. The following formulations are examples of how myths can be answered in a friendly and clear manner. Myth: "My dog will be more aggressive with a muzzle."

Possible answer:

"I hear that often. In practice, it's the other way around: If you know that your dog can't bite, you're more relaxed - and your dog notices that. It's important that the muzzle fits well and doesn't hurt. Then your dog feels safer, not more threatened." Myth: "Only

dangerous dogs wear muzzles."

Possible answer:

"Many dogs wear muzzles even though they have never bitten anyone - for example because of poison bait, at the vet or because it is mandatory on the bus. A muzzle says nothing about whether a dog is 'bad'. It shows that you are taking responsibility." Myth: "Muzzle is animal cruelty."

Possible answer:

"A muzzle can actually cause problems if it fits poorly or is too tight. Our goal is exactly the opposite: we adjust the muzzle so that your dog can pant, drink and move as normally as possible. Then the muzzle protects - instead of torturing." Myth: "My dog won't put up with something like that."

Possible answer:

"Many dogs are skeptical at the beginning - that's completely normal. We build up the muzzle in small steps with lots of reward, so that your dog learns: muzzle = nothing bad, often even something good. We don't just force him in, we take him

"We have time to set it up." Myth: "If the muzzle is on, I don't have to train anymore."

Possible answer:

"The muzzle is like a seat belt: it protects if something happens - but it doesn't replace learning to drive. It prevents injuries while you work on the root cause with training and management."

3.4 Dealing with the owners' emotions

Many objections are less about a technical problem and more about an emotional one.

Typical feelings on the part of the owner are:

- Shame ("I failed because my dog needs a muzzle."),
- Fear of being judged by others ("Everyone thinks my dog is dangerous."),
- Concern for the dog ("Does this hurt him?"),
- Overwhelm ("I don't know how I'm going to do this on my own."). As a counselor, it is important to take these feelings seriously and not downplay them. Empathy here means: listening, reflecting, informing - not discussing who is "right".

Helpful basic attitude:

- ask openly ("What worries you most about the muzzle?"),
- Naming feelings ("I hear that you are worried about what others think."),
- reinterpret it positively ("To me, this shows that you treat your dog very responsibly.").

3.5 Communication style in consulting

A professional communication style helps to build trust and avoid conflict

avoid. Important elements are:

- clear, simple language instead of technical jargon,
- "I" messages ("I would recommend...") instead of "you" accusations ("You must..."),
- concrete examples and comparisons (e.g. "seat belt", "safety helmet"),
- calm, appreciative posture (do not "stand over" the holder),
- Allow time for questions and concerns. The aim is for owners to feel taken seriously and supported - not lectured to or dismissed.

3.6 Limits of communication

Even the best communication has limits. Some situations require additional ones

Specialists:

- In the case of massive behavioral problems (repeated severe bites): Involve a trainer or behavior veterinarian.
- If medical causes are suspected (pain, neurological problems, shortness of breath): it is essential to consult a veterinarian.
- For owners who are under severe emotional stress (e.g. after serious incidents): careful handling, if necessary smaller steps and several appointments. Important: Consultants are not there to solve everything alone, but are part of a network of experts. It is a sign of professionalism to know your own limits.

3.7 Key statements Module 3

- Myths about muzzles are often emotionally influenced - not just factually incorrect.

- Consultants need professional arguments and at the same time empathetic conversation.
- Good example sentences and comparisons make it easier to pick up owners.
- Emotions such as shame, fear and insecurity should be taken seriously and addressed.
- Professional communication means knowing boundaries and involving other specialists when necessary.



MODULE 4 - Measuring, fit & belt planning

4.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- correctly take all relevant muzzle and head circumferences according to the Caniseguros measuring instructions,
- understand how these measurements are incorporated into the selection of model and size,
- Plan throatlatches, neck/closure straps, overhead straps and safety collars sensibly,
- Take special cases into account (e.g. protruding lower jaw, very small dogs, brachycephalic dogs),
- Document measurements in writing and with photos and avoid typical measurement errors.

4.1 Overview & principles of muzzle measurement

The fit of a muzzle depends on careful measurement. It's not about making "any muzzle roughly fit", but rather systematically determining which muzzle shape and size fits the individual dog's head. Breed names are only rough guidelines. A Dalmatian, for example, can fit very well into a so-called "German Shepherd model" if the head shape suits it. The real dimensions and proportions of the dog are always crucial - not the breed name. This module teaches how these measurements can be reliably collected and documented.

4.2 Measuring tools & preparation

For a precise measurement, a few but suitable utensils are required:

- a flexible tape measure (tailor's tape measure),

- a ruler or a longer ruler/folding rule for straight lines,
- If necessary, a pen and measuring sheet for direct documentation of the values.

If possible, the dog should:

- standing or sitting in a quiet environment,
- not exactly coming from a rush or game situation,
- be able to touch your head without panicking. If the dog can hardly be touched on the head, this is already an indication of a need for training and possibly increased risk (see red flags in section 4.7). In such cases, it may be necessary to work with a trainer and/or veterinarian.

4.3 Measuring points on the catch

The basis for choosing the basket size is several measurements on the muzzle and head. They are based on the Caniseguros measuring instructions ("Guía de medidas").

4.3.1 Catch length

The muzzle length measures the distance from the tip of the nose to the point where the muzzle should end - usually just before the eyes. Measurements are taken along the top of the muzzle (bridge of the nose).

Procedure:

- The ruler or tape measure is placed on the tip of the nose.
- Measurements are taken along the bridge of the nose to the point where the muzzle should end - usually where the muzzle merges into the head, just before the eyes.
- The value is recorded in centimeters.

4.3.2 Catch scope

The circumference of the catch is crucial for the width of the muzzle. It is measured at the thickest part of the muzzle - typically about halfway between the tip of the nose and the eyes, where the muzzle is strongest.

Procedure:

- The dog keeps his muzzle closed.

- The measuring tape is placed once around the muzzle without additionally squeezing the mouth.
- The tape measure should fit snugly, but not cut into it.
- The value is recorded in centimeters. This size will later determine how much room the muzzle must offer to the front and to the side so that the dog can pant with the muzzle on.

4.3.3 Catch width

The muzzle width provides information about how wide the muzzle needs to be in the front area. It is measured across the widest part of the muzzle (from left to right).

Procedure:

- A ruler or tape measure is placed across the muzzle at the point where the muzzle is widest.
- The value is recorded in centimeters. The muzzle width is particularly important for dogs with a very wide muzzle (e.g. Molossers, wide male dogs), so that the muzzle does not become too restrictive at the sides.

4.3.4 Head length / head proportion

It can also be helpful to record the distance from the stop (transition between forehead and bridge of nose) to the back of the head. This head length helps to estimate how far the muzzle can extend towards the head without disturbing the eyes.

4.3.5 Special case: Protruding lower jaw

For dogs with a protruding lower jaw (e.g. many Molossians or brachycephalic breeds) the measurement must be adjusted. Here the catch length is measured like this, that the protruding lower jaw is taken into account.

Procedure:

- Measurements are taken from the tip of the nose to the point where the lower jaw protrudes furthest.
- As a rule, about half a centimeter (0.5 cm) is added to this value as additional margin. This ensures that the muzzle does not permanently pinch or chafe the protruding lower jaw at the front.

4.3.6 Panting factor (factor 1.5 / 1.3-1.4)

In order for dogs to pant in a muzzle, the muzzle must have enough depth and girth. A proven guide is the so-called panting factor.

Basic principle:

- Take the measured circumference of the catch (closed mouth).
- For the necessary freedom from panting, calculate approximately 1.5 times this circumference as the target space in the muzzle. A factor of 1.5 usually ensures that there is enough space for the dog to open its mouth and stick out its tongue. In practice, a factor of 1.3 to 1.4 can sometimes be sufficient for very small dogs, as their catches are often smaller and the absolute distances traveled are shorter. Experience and a critical look at the individual head and muzzle shape are important here.

4.4 Measure & plan belt lengths

In addition to the basket itself, the straps are crucial to the fit, safety and comfort of the muzzle. They are always measured on the dog and then adjusted or adjusted accordingly on the muzzle.

4.4.1 Throatbelt

The throatlatch runs from one lower base of the ear under the neck to the other lower base of the ear. It prevents the muzzle from sliding up towards the eyes, but must not press on the larynx or choke.

Procedure:

- With the dog standing, measure with the tape measure from the lower base of the left ear under the neck to the lower base of the right ear.
- The tape measure should run where the throatlatch will later lie - slightly behind the larynx, not directly on the sensitive area.
- The measured value serves as a guide for the subsequent belt length.

4.4.2 Neck/closure straps

The neck or fastening strap runs behind the ears, from one lower base of the ear to the other, directly behind the skull roof. This is where the main fastener that holds the muzzle to the head is located.

Procedure:

- Measure from the bottom of the ear behind the head to the bottom of the other ear.
- The measuring tape is located where the fastening strap will later run - directly behind the ears, not too far down the neck.
- The value is used as a basis for the strap length, plus some leeway for the buckle.

4.4.3 Overhead strap

The overhead strap is not primarily used to prevent stripping, but rather to slightly raise the front of the muzzle - especially on dogs with a high nose (e.g. Boxer) so that the basket does not lie directly on the bridge of the nose or the sponge of the nose.

Procedure for determining length:

- The starting point is the upper front area of the wire basket on the nose area - i.e. the piece that lies in front of the eyes.
- From there, measure along the imaginary line between the eyes over the head up to and including the width of the fastening strap.
- This determines the length that the overhead strap must have in order to lift the basket easily without straining the head.

4.4.4 Safety collar

The safety collar is a separate collar that is coupled to the muzzle via connectors. It is intended to prevent the dog from being able to completely remove the muzzle.

Important: The leash is never attached to this collar - it serves as a stopper, not as a lead collar.

Procedure for determining length:

- The measurement is taken directly at the top, highest edge of the neck, relatively close behind the ears.
- The measuring tape runs where the safety collar will later sit - relatively high up, tighter than a normal collar, but without choking.
- The value is used to adjust the safety collar. This is later coupled to the muzzle using short straps or connectors.

4.5 Nose pads & variants

Nose pads protect the bridge of the nose from pressure and distribute the contact surface. Caniseguros use individually adapted nose pads made of foam suitable for outdoor use.

Important variants:

- narrow nose pads - for dogs with little space between the eyes and the bridge of the nose,
- normal nose pads - standard variant for many dogs,
- Extending nose pads - extend the muzzle slightly backwards, increase the contact surface and create more space between the nose and the basket.

Extending nose pads can help if the muzzle is tight or the bridge of the nose is very sensitive. They are customized for each model.

4.6 Documentation & photo documentation

All measured values should be recorded directly in a measurement protocol (e.g. Caniseguros measurement sheet). Photo documentation is also very helpful.

Recommendation:

- Side view of the dog measuring the muzzle length (measuring tape visible).
- Front view during circumference measurement (tape measure visible).
- Optional: Photo of the head without the muzzle for later assessment of shape. These photos are assigned to the protocol and can provide valuable information for later modifications, complaints or subsequent adjustments.

4.7 Red flags when measuring

Some observations during the measurement should draw the attention of the consultants particularly awaken:

- The dog refuses to be touched on the head at all and shows panic or massive stress.
- The head appears clearly asymmetrical (one side shaped differently than the other).

- Old pressure points from previous muzzles are already visible (bald spots, scars, discolored skin, thickened areas). Such points should be noted in the minutes. Depending on the findings, it makes sense to also involve veterinarians or trainers before using a muzzle intensively.

4.8 Key statements Module 4

- Good fit starts with precise measurement - not breed designations.
- Muzzle length, muzzle circumference, muzzle width and head proportions determine which model and size fit.
- The panting factor (approx. 1.5 times the circumference of the muzzle, possibly 1.3-1.4 for very small dogs) ensures sufficient freedom from panting.
- Straps (throat strap, neck strap, overhead strap, safety collar) are measured on the dog and adjusted individually.
- Nose pads can reduce pressure, "lengthen" the muzzle and protect sensitive noses.
- Documentation and photo documentation are mandatory; red flags must be taken seriously and further clarified if necessary.



MODULE 5 - The perfect fit: fitting, checklist & suitability for everyday use

5.0 Objective of the module

After this module, participants can:

- put on a muzzle correctly and adjust it gradually,
- assess the fit using a structured checklist,
- Recognize important problem signs (pressure, slipping, too little panting freedom),
- Provide holders with a simple everyday checklist and a 5-second check,
- Decide sensibly when a model or size needs to be changed.

5.1 Preparation for the fitting

A good fitting doesn't just start when you put the muzzle on, but rather in the preparation. The aim is for the dog to remain as calm and relaxed as possible and for the owner to be able to understand what is happening step by step.

Before trying on, the following should be clarified:

- whether the dog already has muzzle experience (positive or negative),
- whether there is current pain, illness or recent injury,
- whether the dog is adequately secured in the situation (leash, helper if necessary).

The muzzle itself should be roughly adjusted to a plausibly suitable strap length before trying it on so that the dog doesn't have to be fiddled with too much while doing so.

5.2 Creating step by step

Docking should be as calm and routine as possible. The less hectic the handling, the more relaxed the dog usually remains.

Typical procedure:

- Have the dog stand or sit securely.
- At first just show the muzzle and let it sniff briefly (if the dog allows it).
- Calmly guide the basket to the catch from the front and carefully guide the catch into the basket.
- Hold the basket in position with one hand and close the neck strap behind your ears with the other.
- Close the throatlatch and adjust it so that it is supportive but not choking.
- Close and adjust the overhead strap (if present) if the muzzle rests on the nose.
- Finally, readjust all straps again without constantly "pulling" them.

Important: First impressions count. If possible, the dog should have been introduced to the feeling of the muzzle in advance (see Module 6 - Muzzle Training).

5.3 "The perfect fit" checklist

After putting it on, it is systematically checked whether the muzzle really fits well. The following points form a core checklist for advisors and can later be used in a simplified form as a handout for owners.

5.3.1 Field of vision & eyes

The muzzle must not unreasonably restrict the dog's field of vision or press into the eyes.

Check:

- Looking from the front: Are both eyes visible and free?
- Check from the side: Is the upper edge of the basket not directly or permanently in the eyelid area? If the basket sits too high and slips into the eye area, a correctly adjusted throat strap or overhead strap can help stabilize the basket a little lower.

5.3.2 Nose & bridge of nose

The nose and the bridge of the nose are very sensitive. The muzzle must not press permanently or selectively here.

Check:

- Carefully feel between the bridge of your nose and the basket with a finger: Is there still some "air"?
- Is there a nose pad and does it fit fully and softly instead of just rubbing on one edge?
- Does the skin around the bridge of the nose appear red or dented after a short period of wear? If the muzzle rests on the bridge of the nose, an extended or differently shaped nose pad, an overhead strap or, in individual cases, a different model may be necessary.

5.3.3 Cheeks & Lips

The muzzle should not squeeze the cheeks excessively. Some contact is normal, but deep indentations or permanent wrinkling may indicate a tight fit.

Check:

- Look to the side: Are the basket struts relatively parallel to the cheeks or do they press in strongly?
- Are the lips and skin pinched or are they severely crushed when the mouth is opened? If there are slight pressure problems, carefully bending a wire muzzle on the cheek bars can provide relief. However, if the basket is visibly deformed, the following applies: Bending = conversion → generally exclusion of returns/exchanges.

Customers have to do this in advance

be explained.

5.3.4 Throat & throatlatch

The throatlatch is intended to stabilize the muzzle, but must not constrict the larynx. A position that is too low or too narrow can cause coughing, choking or breathing problems.

Check:

- Is the throatlatch behind the larynx area and not in the middle of it?
- Can two fingers be pushed between the throatlatch and the neck without it obviously hanging loose?
- Does the dog show defensive reactions (coughing, choking, jerking his head up) when pressure is applied to the throatlatch? In some cases it may make sense to do without a throat piece or to reposition it. However, this should always be done in such a way that the overall stability of the muzzle is maintained.

5.3.5 Freedom from panting & mouth opening

A central test point is freedom from panting. The dog must be able to open its mouth and stick out its tongue with the muzzle on.

Check:

- Let the dog walk a few steps or encourage him slightly - does he start panting?
- Is it clearly visible in the profile that the lower jaw can separate from the upper jaw (mouth opening)?
- Can the tongue visibly come out between the basket struts? If the mouth opening is only possible to a minimum, the size, model or modification must be reconsidered. Adequate panting ability is vital in heat or stress.

5.3.6 Secure fit

The muzzle must fit in such a way that it cannot be easily removed, but at the same time does not wobble or twist significantly.

Check:

- Lightly grasp the front of the basket and carefully move it up, down and sideways - does it generally stay in place?
- Is the dog actively trying to pull the basket over his nose with his paws? Does he succeed?
- Are the safety collar and connectors set correctly if a maximum safety solution is required? Dogs with a clear intention to cause damage or a high risk situation should always be used with a safety collar and appropriate connectors, so that stripping them off is practically impossible.

5.4 Safety test & short movement test

Once the basic fit has been checked, a short movement test follows.

Recommended procedure:

- Let the dog walk a few steps with the muzzle on.
- Change direction to see how the muzzle behaves when moving.

- Sit down and stand up slightly to observe belt position and stability. The muzzle should not slip massively, should not repeatedly slide towards the eyes and should not obviously disturb the dog when moving.

5.5 Typical fit problems & corrections

Common problems and possible actions:

- Basket slides up towards eyes. → Correctly adjust or supplement the throat strap, if necessary use an overhead strap, if necessary choose another model with a better head connection.
- Nose becomes cut or very red. → Adjust nose pad (widen/lengthen), insert overhead strap, check model selection (nose clearance).
- Dog can hardly pant. → Check the size, if necessary change to a larger or deeper basket shape, recheck the panting factor (1.5 or 1.3-1.4 for very small dogs).
- Muzzle can be easily removed. → Optimize strap guidance, readjust neck and throat straps, add safety collar, if necessary choose a different basket shape with a better head connection for dogs that are highly manipulative.

5.6 Checklist for owners in everyday life

Owners need a simple, understandable checklist that they can use in everyday life. This can be significantly shorter than the technical checklist, but should contain the most important points.

Example of a short checklist:

- Eyes free - the basket does not touch the eyes and does not severely restrict the field of vision.
- Nose free - there is still some space between the bridge of the nose and the basket, nothing causes permanent chafing.
- Panting possible - the dog can open its mouth and pant visibly.
- Throat free - the throatlatch does not sit on the larynx and does not choke.
- Fits securely - the basket cannot be easily removed or twisted.

5.7 5-second check for each use

In addition to the detailed checklist, owners can be given a very short routine check that they can carry out before each use.

5 second check:

- 1. Eyes free? - Take a quick look from the front: Are both eyes clearly visible?
- 2. Nose free? - Use a finger to feel between the bridge of your nose and the basket: still have some space?
- 3. Panting possible? - Dog briefly in motion: Can he open his mouth and pant?
- 4. Throat free? - Feel the throat latch: Is it behind the larynx without choking?
- 5. Sit securely? - Shake the front of the basket slightly: Does it generally stay in its position?

5.8 Key statements Module 5

- The perfect fit is a combination of safety, comfort and freedom from panting.
- A structured checklist helps to check systematically and reproducibly.
- Pressure points, restricted visibility or a lack of panting freedom are warning signs and must be taken seriously.
- Owners need simple, clear everyday checklists and routines like the 5-second check.
- For dogs at high risk, a safety collar and suitable belt guidance should always be used.

MODULE 6 - Muzzle training, habituation & handling in everyday life

6.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- Build up muzzle training in small steps and positively,
- Provide holders with concrete exercise plans for at home,
- deal with resistance, paw use and insecurities of dogs,
- Plan to wear muzzles in everyday situations (bus, vet, city, poison bait areas),
- assess which training questions should be passed on to trainers or behavior experts.

6.1 Basic principles of muzzle training

Muzzle training is not intended to "break" the dog, but rather to help him accept the muzzle as a normal part of everyday life. The most important principles are:

- small steps: in small, easily manageable steps instead of "everything at once",
- positive: the muzzle heralds good things (food, walks, familiar routines),
- voluntary: wherever possible, give the dog the chance to slip into the basket itself,
- short sessions: it's better to do several short sessions a day rather than one long, overwhelming session,
- Stopping if the dog is overwhelmed: if the dog massively avoids or freezes, step back instead of "pushing through".

6.2 Training phases - from getting to know each other to everyday life

Muzzle training can be divided into several rough phases. Depending on the dog, individual steps can be completed faster or slower.

6.2.1 Phase 1 - Getting to know the muzzle

The aim of this phase is for the dog to perceive the muzzle as harmless and to remain curious.

Typical exercises:

- The muzzle is visible in the room and the dog is allowed to sniff it without anything happening.
- Any voluntary approach and sniffing can be quietly rewarded (e.g. placing food nearby).
- No sudden "pushing on" in this phase - trust comes before speed.

6.2.2 Phase 2 - Nose in the basket

Now the dog should learn to actively stick his nose into the basket. This is where the most important connection emerges: Muzzle = it's worth it for me.

Typical exercises:

- Food is kept in the basket and the dog can get it.
- At first only very briefly, then gradually increase the duration with your nose in the basket.
- The basket is not immediately held at the back, but remains movable so that the dog feels safe.

6.2.3 Phase 3 - Briefly closing the belts

Only when the dog relaxes and puts his nose into the basket does the straps close carefully for a very short time.

Typical steps:

- Dog voluntarily sticks his nose into the basket, advisor or owner closes the neck strap for one to two seconds.
- Immediately open the straps again, remove the muzzle, reward.
- Increase the duration gradually: seconds become 10-20 seconds, later 1-2 minutes.

6.2.4 Phase 4 - Movement with a muzzle

In this phase, the dog experiences that he can do completely normal things with a muzzle: running, sniffing, lying down, making contact with people.

Typical exercises:

- Walk a few steps with the muzzle on, take it off immediately and reward.
- Everyday situations in very low intensity: short walk into the yard, on a quiet street, with a muzzle.
- Dog learns: Muzzle does not mean "standstill", but often even heralds exciting things (a walk).

6.2.5 Phase 5 - Transfer to real everyday situations

Now the muzzle is used in the situations for which it is actually intended - but only after the dog has first been positively accustomed to it.

Examples:

- Visit to the vet with a prepared muzzle instead of "quickly put it on in the waiting room".
- Bus or train rides with prior training, not first thing in rush hour.
- Walks in poison bait hotspots with anti-feeding adjustment, parallel anti-feeding training (abort signal).

6.3 Reward strategies & feed management

The right reward makes muzzle training much easier. At the same time, the safety and purpose of the muzzle must be taken into account - especially at

Anti-seize conversions.

Important points:

- Use soft, easy-to-swallow food that can be easily passed through the basket.
- In the beginning, rewards can be given very frequently (almost every approach, every voluntary nose contact).
- Use rewards later in a targeted manner, e.g. E.g. when standing quietly while putting it on.

- When converting food protection, a decision must be made as to when and how reward is still possible (e.g. through a defined feeding hatch).

6.4 "Paws away" - Dealing with scratching at the muzzle

Many dogs initially try to remove the muzzle with their paws. This is a common, normal step in the learning process. What matters is how people react to it.

Goals:

- Dog learns that paws on the muzzle "do no good."
- Calm behavior with a muzzle is rewarded.

Possible strategies:

- Only let it be worn for as long as the dog is still responsive - it is better to do shorter sessions before it resorts to excessive scratching.
- Distract easily (short exercise, walk a few steps) as soon as the paw goes towards the muzzle.
- Consciously confirm quiet phases with your voice or food ("Great, that's good.").
- For dogs with the intent to cause massive damage: put a muzzle on, keep moving, and leave no room for static scratching. Safety is the top priority here.

6.5 Wearing times, breaks & observation

How long a dog can wear the muzzle at a time depends on health, weather, strain and fit. Flat-rate times are therefore only rough guidelines.

General recommendations:

- At the beginning only wear for very short periods of time (seconds to a few minutes) and then increase slowly.
- When it's hot, it's better to do several short missions rather than one very long one - always keep an eye on your panting ability.
- After longer periods of use, check the skin and fur at the contact points (redness, chafing).
- If irritation is visible: take a break from wearing, check the cause (fit, material, duration).

6.6 Special training cases

Some situations place special demands on muzzle training and use. Dogs with the intent to cause damage When it comes to dogs with the clear intent to cause damage, safety comes first. This means: The muzzle and, if necessary, the safety collar must fit reliably. Training takes place under controlled conditions - often in collaboration with qualified trainers or behavioral veterinarians. Vet visits Vet visits are particularly stressful for many dogs. The better the muzzle is set up beforehand, the less additional stress arises in practice. Owners should be encouraged to put the muzzle on at home before driving to the practice. Poison bait areas In areas with a known risk of poison bait, a muzzle with anti-feeding modifications can be life-saving. At the same time, you should always work on a stop signal and anti-eating training in parallel so that the dog learns in the long term not to move towards food on the ground.

6.7 Training plans & homework for owners

Holders benefit from clear, written instructions. A simple weekly plan can help you stay on track.

Example "Week 1 - Basics":

- Day 1-2: Getting to know each other - muzzle is visible, dog gets food nearby.
- Day 3-4: Nose in the basket - 5-10 very short repetitions, each with a treat in the basket.
- Day 5-7: First short closing attempts - close the strap for 1-2 seconds, then open it again, reward. Further weeks can be structured in a constructive manner (longer duration, first steps in movement, first short everyday walks with a muzzle).

Consultants can create standardized handouts that are adapted to the individual situation.

6.8 Key statements Module 6

- Good muzzle training is small-step, positive and based on the dog's pace.
- Dogs should experience the muzzle as "normal", not as a punishment.
- Dealing with paws and attempts to brush them off is part of the training - not just "disobedience".

- Wearing times, weather and health conditions determine how long a muzzle can be worn at a time.
- Owners need clear, practical training plans and homework to implement what they have learned.

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MODULE 7 - Material check & conversion measures

7.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- Classify the advantages and disadvantages of common muzzle materials,
- explain why Caniseguros relies on original biothane, padding and stainless steel,
- Explain to holders in an understandable way why a conversion can make sense even with a suitable basic model,
- name typical conversion measures (belts, padding, seizure protection, additional straps),
- Know when powder coating is mandatory after welding work and why Loctite is important on book screws.

7.1 Common standard materials for muzzles

Many commercially available muzzles come with leather straps and felt padding. At first glance it seems "classic" and high quality - however, these materials have clear disadvantages in everyday life. Leather - problems in everyday life

- absorbs water - when it rains, swims or wet grass, leather soaks up and becomes heavier,
- rubs the skin much more quickly when wet,
- becomes brittle due to salt (sea, sweat, road salt) and sun,
- wears out over time - the adjusted fit changes, the muzzle becomes unsafe,
- is maintenance-intensive - needs to be greased/cared for regularly, otherwise it will tear. Felt - Problems as a cushioning material
- absorbs moisture and dirt strongly,
- chafes when wet, especially on sensitive skin,
- is difficult to get hygienically clean - dirt, saliva and bacteria get stuck in the material,

- starts to smell slightly if it is not allowed to dry completely on a regular basis. This may be tolerable for short-term or very rare use. However, for dogs that wear muzzles regularly or even daily, these material properties are problematic - both in terms of comfort, hygiene and durability.

7.2 Biothane & Caniseguros Standard

Caniseguros deliberately does not work with leather and felt straps, but instead relies on:

- Straps made from original Biothane,
- padded nose pads made of soft, outdoor-suitable foam,
- Stainless steel fittings. Advantages of Original Biothane
- waterproof - does not soak up, remains dimensionally stable even when wet,
- smooth surface - rubs significantly less than wet leather,
- very easy to clean - simply rinse with water, dirt does not get stuck in the material,
- hardly absorbs any odors - more hygienic in long-term use,
- UV and weather resistant - does not become brittle as quickly as leather,
- Dimensionally stable - does not wear out, the adjusted fit is retained. It is important to use original Biothane and not inferior imitations or poor quality "Hexa" variants. Only high-quality Biothane combines high tear resistance with a pleasantly smooth surface.

Nose pads & fittings

- Individually adapted nose pads made of soft, outdoor-friendly foam distribute the pressure on the bridge of the nose.
- They significantly reduce the risk of pressure points, friction and pressure sores.
- Stainless steel fittings are rust-proof, stable and durable - ideal for dogs that travel in wet conditions or in the sea.

7.3 Why a conversion is worthwhile - even if it's suitable

Basic model Many dogs get along well with a basic model made of a metal basket and standard straps (leather/felt). Nevertheless, it is worth converting

Biothane straps and modern padding for several reasons:

- Comfort: Biothane chafes less, remains comfortable even when wet, padding distributes pressure better.

- Hygiene: Straps and padding are easier to clean, dry faster and absorb fewer odors.
- Longevity: Biothane and stainless steel last significantly longer than leather/felt in everyday life (rain, sun, salt, dirt).
- Safety: Dimensionally stable straps and correctly secured book screws ensure that settings are retained.
- Appearance: Modifications can make the muzzle appear more modern and well-kept - important for the image of safety and responsibility to the outside world. IMPORTANT: After each adjustment of straps and fittings, the book screws must be secured with a screw lock (e.g. Loctite). This prevents them from coming loose due to movement or vibration.

7.4 Typical conversion measures (overview)

The following conversion measures are particularly common and useful in practice. They are based on the possibilities such as: B. in specialized ones

Muzzle conversion programs are offered. 1. Belt conversion to Biothane

- Replacement of all leather or textile straps for Biothane straps.
- Individual adjustment of throat straps, neck/closure straps and, if necessary, overhead straps based on the previously taken measurements. 2. Addition or modification of throat and overhead straps
- Retrofitting a throat latch if the muzzle would otherwise slide up too easily.
- Installation of an overhead strap to easily raise the basket for high-nosed dogs (e.g. Boxers). 3. Installing a safety collar
- Safety collar that sits high on the neck and is coupled to the muzzle via connectors.
- Ensures that the muzzle cannot be completely removed - important for dogs who intend to cause damage.
- The leash is never attached to this collar - it serves as a stopper, not a lead collar. 4. Replacing or adding nasal pads
- Replace standard nose pads with narrow, regular or extended pads.
- Goal: more distance between the bridge of the nose and the basket, larger contact surface, fewer pressure peaks. 5. Feeding protection & poison bait protection
- Attaching close-meshed Biothane elements or panels in the front basket area.

- Partial or full protection so that the dog can hardly or cannot pick up anything from the ground.
- Particularly useful for dogs with a strong tendency to ingest foreign bodies or in poison bait hotspots.

7.5 Welding work & powder coating

In some cases, strap and padding conversions are not enough to optimally fit a muzzle. It may then be necessary to modify the wire basket itself - for example by welding work (e.g. moving struts, using additional struts). PRINCIPLE: Whenever welding takes place, powder coating must be carried out afterwards.

Reasons for this:

- Corrosion protection - welds are otherwise more susceptible to rust.
- Smoothness of the surface - Powder coating ensures an even, smooth surface without sharp edges.
- Hygiene - smooth, coated surfaces are easier to clean, dirt and saliva stick less.
- Appearance - the muzzle looks professional and well-groomed even after modification. Pure bending work (without welding) does not require new powder coating, but should be carried out carefully. After each procedure, all wire runs must be checked for sharp edges and possible sources of injury.

7.6 Safety & Limitations of Conversions

Modifications may not compromise the basic stability and protective effect of the muzzle affect. The following points are particularly important:

- Struts must not be removed in such a way that the dog can bite again or ingest large pieces.
- After every change to the wire or strap, it must be checked whether the muzzle is still stable enough.
- Modifications should always be clearly documented (photos, notes), especially for dogs with conditions or official requirements.
- In some cases it makes more sense to choose a different basic model instead of "bending" an unsuitable basket.

7.7 Maintenance, screw locking & care

Even the best conversion only remains safe if the muzzle is regularly checked and maintained.

Important points:

- Secure book screws with screw locking agent (e.g. Loctite) after each belt adjustment - otherwise they may come loose.
- Regular visual inspection: are all screws tight, are there no cracks or damage visible on the belt or basket?
- If the Biothane strap is dirty, simply wash it with water (if necessary, a mild cleaner), also clean the foam padding and allow it to dry thoroughly.
- Do not use harsh cleaners or metal brushes on powder-coated surfaces to avoid damaging the coating.

7.8 Key statements Module 7

- Leather and felt are often problematic for long-term wearers: they absorb water, chafe, age quickly and are difficult to keep hygienic.
- Caniseguros uses original Biothane, foam padding and stainless steel to maximize comfort, hygiene and durability.
- A conversion is worthwhile even if the basic model fits - it increases comfort, safety and durability.
- Typical conversions include strap conversions, nose pads, safety collars and anti-feeding solutions.
- Powder coating is mandatory after welding work; Book screws are secured with screw locking.
- Regular checks and care keep the converted muzzle safe and animal welfare-friendly in the long term.

MODULE 8 - Legal framework, responsibility & documentation

8.0 Goal of the module

After this module, participants can:

- clearly assess your role and responsibility as a muzzle advisor,
- Inform holders transparently about the limits of advice,
- know which points should be documented in writing,
- take into account basic legal framework conditions in connection with muzzle advice,
- Integrate simple liability and information notices into your work without replacing legal advice.

8.1 Important note - not legal advice

This module offers orientation on typical legal issues in connection with muzzle advice. It does not replace individual legal advice from a legal professional or tax advice. Laws, regulations and local requirements may change and vary significantly by country, region or community.

Principle: Muzzle consultants should always point out to their customers that they are responsible for compliance with the applicable laws, muzzle and leash requirements and other official requirements.

8.2 Role clarification - what muzzle consultants do (and what not)

Muzzle advisors have a clearly defined role. They are experts in the fit, material, safety aspects and animal welfare-friendly use of muzzles. As a rule, they are not veterinarians and not lawyers.

Typical tasks of muzzle consultants:

- Advice on models, sizes and materials (e.g. wire basket, Biothane straps, food protection),
- Carrying out measurements and fittings, including fit checks,
- Assessment of whether a muzzle makes sense and can be used in an animal welfare-friendly manner in a specific case,
- Education about the limits of the muzzle (not a substitute for training, medicine, management).

No muzzle advice tasks:

- do not diagnose illnesses or behavioral disorders,
- make no promises of healing or guarantees of success,
- do not provide binding legal advice on specific individual cases,
- do not replace or evaluate official decisions.

8.3 Contractual principles & business models (briefly)

Depending on how muzzle consultants work, a different legal classification can arise, for example as self-employed activity, commercial activity, freelance work or activity as part of a cooperation. The specific registration, tax treatment and contractual structure should always be clarified individually with appropriate specialist advice.

What is more important here than the legal form in detail is that customers must know who they are concluding the contract with and exactly what services are agreed.

8.4 Liability & exclusions of liability

Muzzle advice is always about safety and the risk of damage, such as bite injuries, property damage or consequential damage. That's why clear communication about liability is important.

Principles:

- Owners always remain responsible for their dog - even with a muzzle.
- A muzzle reduces the risk of injury, but can never eliminate it 100%.
- Consultants owe careful professional advice, but not guaranteed success in the dog's behavior.

- In the event of grossly incorrect advice or obvious omissions, liability can still arise - which is why care, documentation and appropriate professional liability insurance are important.

It makes sense to work with simple, clear liability notices and have them confirmed by customers - especially for dogs with a history of incidents, such as bites or official requirements.

8.5 Documentation - what should be recorded

Good documentation protects the dog, owner and advisor. It ensures traceability and is important in case of doubt in order to be able to show what was discussed and recommended.

Typical components of documentation:

- Customer data (name, contact details) - only as much as necessary,
- Dog data (name, age, breed/mix, special abnormalities),
- History: known biting incidents, existing official requirements, medical peculiarities,
- Measurement report: all relevant measurements (catch, head, strap), ideally with date,
- Photos of the head and, if applicable, measurement situation, provided the owner has agreed,
- recommended model, size and modifications (e.g. Biothane strap, anti-feeding plate, safety collar),
- Information that was given (e.g. about freedom from panting, training, danger of poison bait, vet or trainer recommendation),
- Signature or confirmation that the consultation took place and instructions for use were explained.

8.6 General legal framework

Depending on the country, region or municipality, different legal requirements may be relevant for muzzle advice. The details are often complex and subject to change. So here are just some general guidelines:

- Muzzle and leash requirement: Depending on the location, there may be regulations as to when and where dogs must wear a muzzle or be on a leash, for example on public transport, in certain public areas or for certain dogs.
- Special requirements for individual dogs or dog categories: In some countries or regions there are special requirements, for example after biting incidents, for official requirements or for certain groups of dogs. Consultants should point out that current information must always be obtained from the responsible authorities or legal specialists.
- Liability insurance: Suitable professional liability insurance is strongly recommended for people who work with dogs commercially or regularly. It protects you from financial consequences if something happens.
- Data protection: Personal data should only be processed for a specific purpose, not stored longer than necessary and not passed on without a legal basis or consent. Express consent should always be obtained for photos or special data.

Specific wording for data protection texts, legal notices, contracts and consents should always be coordinated with a legal professional.

8.7 Dealing with dogs with biting incidents & official requirements

Advice on dogs with a history of biting or official requirements requires special care - both professionally and legally.

Important points:

- Your own safety and the safety of other people have top priority - a muzzle and, if necessary, other security devices (e.g. double security on the leash) are mandatory.
- The history should be recorded clearly in the documentation, without dramatizing language, factually and concisely.
- Consultants can give advice as to which muzzle is technically suitable, but are not responsible for assessing whether requirements are formally met - that lies with the responsible authorities.
- It makes sense to point out to owners the need for additional training and, if necessary, behavioral veterinary medicine.

8.8 Example wording for notes and disclaimers

The following formulations are examples of what notices to customers can look like. They are not intended to be complete legal documents, but rather as a template that should be legally reviewed and adjusted.

Example: Note on responsibility "The muzzle consultation serves to select and adapt a muzzle that is as suitable and animal welfare-friendly as possible. Responsibility for the dog and its behavior lies with the owner at all times. A muzzle can reduce the risk of injuries, but cannot completely eliminate it."

Example: No behavioral or healing promises "The use of a muzzle does not guarantee any changes in the dog's behavior. The advice does not replace veterinary treatment, behavioral therapy or training work."

Example: Note on health risks "If you have known previous illnesses (e.g. heart, lung or respiratory diseases, neurological diseases), the use of a muzzle should be coordinated with the treating veterinarian. Please inform us about any known previous illnesses your dog has."

These or similar texts can be integrated into registration forms, consulting contracts or information sheets - after legal review and adaptation to the specific business model.

8.9 Key statements Module 8

- Muzzle consultants are responsible for providing careful, animal welfare-friendly advice - not for every dog's behavior.
- Clear role clarification and differentiation from veterinarians, trainers and legal advice are important.
- Good documentation (data, dimensions, recommendations, notes) protects everyone involved.
- Legal requirements regarding muzzle requirements, liability, documentation and data protection can vary depending on the country or region - owners must actively inform themselves.
- Simple, understandable notes and disclaimers help to clarify expectations and avoid misunderstandings.