







# Trouble-shooting

- ❗ If your dog paws at the muzzle during training you have probably moved on too quickly and they are telling you they aren't ready for this particular stage of the training – distract them if you can and then take the muzzle off. Go back to the stage at which they were doing well – this might be just eating treats from the muzzle itself for example – and continue with that stage for longer to give them time to grow in confidence and understanding before progressing again.
- ❗ Go so slowly that your dog never gets worried. They should always be happy, so only move on when you are sure that they are ready! If they want to move away always allow them to – just like us they might have some days in which they are focused and enjoying the training and others when they just aren't as engaged and are more distracted! Use those moments when they're alert and responsive to you to do your training in!

**If your dog guards food or isn't interested in food then you may need a different method. Contact a qualified professional for advice.**

## ***Top Training Tip***

Only start to use your muzzle out on walks once your dog is completely happy wearing it – if you need to muzzle him before this, for example at the vets, try to use a completely different type/style of muzzle so you don't risk disrupting your training!

Dogs Trust provide lifelong behavioural support for all our adopted dogs. If you need help for your Dogs Trust Dog, please email: [reception@dogstrust.ie](mailto:reception@dogstrust.ie)

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If you are interested in Dog School training classes, please contact the team via [www.DogsTrust.ie/DogSchool](http://www.DogsTrust.ie/DogSchool)

The advice contained in this handout is of a general nature and is no substitute for specific behavioural or veterinary advice.