

**Dr. OES!!**

**You WILL NOT believe what happened to me today! I jumped in the car for a beautiful car ride to the “treat” office, aka the vet’s office. I looove going to the treat office because, well, they love ME! They tell me how gorgeous I am and how well-behaved I am and give me yummy treats and love all over me! It’s ALL ABOUT ME!**

**Today, a new person was there…ok, no big deal, I mean, EVERYONE loves me! Except that girl. She put something on my face and covered up my BIG BEAUTIFUL NOSE! I didn’t like it one bit!**

**Why would someone put a mud-zle on me? It’s a silly name anyway; there is ZERO mud.**

**They did give me some treats and loved all over me like they normally do, so I forgot about the mud-zle. It really wasn’t that bad, but I don’t understand why they did it!**

**I had to tell my mom all about it when I got back to the car. She couldn’t go in with me, because, you know, covid.**

 **Mud-zles Are Stoopid in Loving, ID**

Dear Mud-zles,

What happened was the girl at the vet’s office put a muzzle, not a mud-zle, on you so you couldn’t bite anyone. The new girl was just being extra careful. You are a fluffy beautiful BIG girl and sometimes your size scares people who don’t know you. I’m glad you were able to accept the muzzle as well as you did. I know it was scary and I can tell from your tone, a bit offensive.

Muzzle training dogs is a good idea. When dogs are scared, the fight/flight/freeze instinct kicks in. Dogs are so overcome by the emotion that they struggle to control their responses. Often dogs you never thought would bite suddenly do so because they are unable to control how to react to extreme pain or fear.

Putting a muzzle on an injured dog or during a vet visit where something unpleasant may happen is not a bad thing. It is a means to keep everyone safe. By muzzle training, you teach the dog that it is not scary if there is ever a need to wear one, and the muzzle will not contribute to the situation.

Katherine Smith, OESCA's Southern Regional Director, is a professional dog training instructor and a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant.  She recommends anyone interested in learning about muzzle training visit the website for the Muzzle Up Project at www.muzzleupproject.com.  Katherine is also available to provide you with further information. If you are interested, please contact her.

**Ask Dr. OES**

**A Column from the Health and Research Committee**

**Send your questions to oeshealth@gmail.com.**

 Dr. OES

**Dear Dr. OES,**

**My 3 month old puppy keeps urinating in the house. Sure, he will go outside but he also goes inside! What can I do?**

 **So Many Puddles in PeePee, OH**

Dear Puddles,

A 3 month old puppy does not yet have control of his bladder. Most trainers agree that a puppy can hold his bladder for as many hours as months he is old. For example, your 3 month old should be able to wait 3-4 hours. Of course, this varies by individual and by activity.

Keeping to a schedule will help you avoid accidents. As soon as the puppy wakes up in the morning or from naps, 10-30 minutes after eating and drinking, after playtime, and right before bed. He will need to go outside a lot since puppies always seem to be doing one of those things mentioned above.

If he whines/barks or goes to the door, take him out. It’s a good idea to give it a word, like “go potty”, and then praise afterwards. Some people have even taught their puppies to ring a bell hung on the doorknob of the door they usually use!

If your puppy seems to have frequent urination, take a urine sample to the vet to rule out a urinary tract infection. Allowing the puppy to sleep in an appropriately-sized crate will also help teach him to hold his bladder. Puppies don’t like to soil their sleeping area. Still be aware while he’s in his crate of any whining or barking because that may be him telling you he needs to go out.

 Dr. OES