



Standard Operating Procedures
Tier 1 Veterinary Medical Center
Muzzle use

Section	Hospital Procedure- muzzle use	Date of Issue	5/1/2021
Part	Muzzle use	Issued by	Administration
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1. Kenneled patients
 - a. At no time will an animal be placed into a kennel with a cloth muzzle
 - b. Kenneled aggressive patients must be fitted with basket muzzles for large breeds or extra-long e-collars for small breeds
2. Sedated patients.
 - a. Aggressive patients should be muzzled at all times when under sedation. Animals can wake suddenly and without warning and anesthetic dysphoria may result in exaggerated aggression.
 - b. At no time should sedated patients ever be muzzled with cloth muzzles
 - i. They may vomit or regurgitate and aspirate or choke
 - ii. They cannot pant adequately
3. Fitting a muzzle properly
 - a. Basket muzzles
 - i. Patient should be able to get their mouth open adequately
 - ii. Do not squish muzzle into a basket too short, their muzzle should not be contacting the end of the muzzle
 - iii. Patients should be able to drink water and pant with the muzzle on
 - b. Cloth muzzles
 - i. Patients should not be able to open their mouth more than a few millimeters with cloth muzzles adequately fitted
 - ii. If you cannot get a small enough muzzle onto a patient, a larger one may be utilized temporarily to help gain control or get a leash or gauze wrap in-place so that an appropriate muzzle can be placed.
4. Disease control
 - a. After use basked muzzles should be cleaned of any debris and sprayed down with kennelsol and left out to dry
 - b. After use on one patient and before being put on any other patient a cloth muzzle should be clipped together and placed in the laundry
5. Placing a Muzzle
 - a. It is always acceptable to ask the owner to place the muzzle for you. If the owner is unable to place the muzzle alone, bring in a second team member trained in appropriate restraint to help with the placement of a muzzle or take the pet to the back if fractious



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- b. Owners should not be relied upon for restraint for a staff member to place a muzzle, this may result in a bite to staff or the owner