

## **Why have you got a muzzle on your dog? Does it bite?**

These are some of the questions we get asked when out walking our dogs. The answers to these are; It is not a muzzle and, No they don't bite?

So what are they wearing? It is a Halti Headcollar.

If you have a large powerful dog or one that pulls on the lead, you will know how exhausting walks can be. Dogs of all sizes can pull on the lead to the point of choking themselves. It is best to train your dog to walk well on a lead from the first day you take it out.

The Halti was designed by Dr Roger Mugford nearly 20 years ago to come to the rescue of such dogs and their owners. Its revolutionary design is based on the same principle as a horse's headcollar - if you guide the head, the body will surely follow. There is nothing new about leading animals by the head: the Incas had headcollars for their llamas 1000 years ago; in Ancient Egypt they were used for leading camels and riders have guided their horses by the head for over 4000 years.

It has been acclaimed worldwide as the most effective design of headcollar, which naturally follows the contours of a dog's face. It is positioned well down the dog's nose giving maximum steering and control for basic training and all other activities with your dog: from a quiet walk to leading an unruly or potentially dangerous dog past animals or people. The particular advantage of Halti over other designs of headcollar is that it has a unique on-off muzzle-closing effect: when the dog attempts to lunge forward or attack, his jaws are closed by the slip ring under his chin. When he is relaxed or friendly, he can reopen his mouth. At all times that the dog is behaving well he can pant easily, loll his tongue and act just like a dog. The soft material and careful design and construction gives maximum comfort and, in many dogs, creates a pronounced calming effect. It works on the principle that no animal likes to walk with its head turned to the right or left. As a dog begins to forge ahead, reaching the full extent of a short or long lead, the halti will gently turn the dog's head and the dog will pull back.

I am able to vouch for its amazing results. My 18 month old German Shepherd used to take me for walks but now my 7 year old son can take her when she has her Halti on, she is so calm and relaxed.

They come in 6 sizes and cost only 12.50€, a small price to pay for a well trained walker. For dogs with sensitive noses such as Boxers or Shar Pei's we recommend a padded Halti. To find out which size is suitable for your dog, please contact Paws 4 Pets. Beware of some designs of canine headcollars that are overly restrictive, whose fitting instructions unkindly emphasise that you should have a tight fit around your dog's muzzle and neck. This can impose pressures upon the underlying soft tissues of his head and neck, with a likelihood of damage to the delicate glands and nerves around the eye orbit and the pressure-sensitive areas behind the ears and upper spine.

Protect your pet with knowledge.

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