

Specification for

Dog muzzles

Confirmed
September 2010

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee (CCM/-) to Technical Committee CCM/50, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Animal Behaviour Centre
- British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine
- British Leather Confederation
- British Leathersgoods Manufacturers' Association
- British Veterinary Association
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Liverpool
- Home Office
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- Kennel Club
- Metropolitan Police
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Ministry of Defence
- National Canine Defence League
- Pet Trade and Industry Association Ltd.
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Society of Master Sadlers

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 September 1994

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Foreword

This revision of BS 7659 has been prepared under the direction of the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes BS 7659:1993, which is withdrawn. This revision specifies the location of some of the interstices for drainage purposes and also includes ventilation and drainage requirements for the additional internal front piece present in certain muzzle designs.

The purpose of this British Standard is to provide designers, manufacturers, retailers, consumers and other interested parties with requirements for dog muzzles that should minimize the risks to humans of serious injury caused by dog attacks.

It is emphasized that dog muzzles conforming to this British Standard will not prevent all injuries occurring, for example damage to fingers placed through a muzzle. For this reason, and for the welfare of the dog, it is essential that a muzzled dog is supervised at all times by a responsible person. If a dog needs to be muzzled to comply with the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [1] then it needs to be under the control of a person who is not less than 16 years old.

This British Standard takes into account the welfare of dogs. A dog can die if unable to open its mouth to pant and drink, or if vomit cannot drain from the muzzle. Therefore box or sock muzzles are not recommended for general use and should never be used when exercising a dog; they are only suitable for use for a short period of time by qualified personnel. Thus this standard specifies that muzzles consist of a cage enclosure that includes a front piece. The mechanical requirements of this standard only assess the ability of muzzles to withstand specific breaking loads; this standard does not cover requirements for the durability of muzzles on individual dogs. Muzzles need to be inspected before use and should never be used if damaged.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.