

**Properly Fitting a “Gentle Leader” Head Collar**

 The Nose Loop of the Gentle Leader needs to be as loose and comfortable as possible, moving freely from just in front of the eyes to the beginning of the fleshy part of the nose – but NOT so loose that it can come off.

The proper fit of the Nose Loop is totally dependent on the proper fit of the Neck Strap, which must be high at the very top of the neck (touching the skull) and very snug (one finger can barely fit underneath) so that it cannot rotate.

1. Attach leash to metal Control Ring on the Nose Loop.
2. Open Neck Strap and hold one end in each hand. The Nose Loop and leash should hang down, like the letter “T”.
3. Pre-fit Neck Strap high on the neck touching base of skull in back, with Center Bar Ring in the niche just above the Adam’s apple in front. Center Bar Ring should be parallel to the neck, not the underside of jawbone. Neck Strap must be snug so that only one finger can squeeze under it, and it cannot rotate around neck. Gently grasp skin at back of neck and pull downward toward shoulders, while at the same time holding Neck Strap against base of skull – this pulls any excess skin or coat from under Neck Strap, improving the fit. Check again to be sure that only one finger can barely squeeze under Neck Strap, and tighten if needed.
4. Take Neck Strap off your dog. Slide Adjustable Snap Clamp down to metal Control Ring on the Nose Loop. (To open the Adjustable Snap Clamp, lift tab with thumb, dime or key; to close press tab until it snaps into locked position. The snap is designed to lock firmly into place and not slip; therefore, it requires a bit of pressure to open and close.)
5. Pull Nose Loop up through Center Bar Ring.
6. With dog at your side or between your legs, hold Nose Loop open. Reach under dog’s head to slip Nose Loop onto base of your dog’s muzzle. Snap Neck Strap high on neck at its pre-fitted position.
7. Make final adjustment to Nose Loop. It should be behind corners of mouth and loose enough to pull forward to wet part of nose, but not so loose that it can be pulled entirely off muzzle. Slide snap clamp up or down to adjust. With thumb and index finger, pinch Nose Loop underneath snap clamp, temporarily holding it from moving. Test size of Nose Loop by pulling it forward as far as it will go. When it touches beginning of wet part of nose, but is not so loose that you can pull it off, close snap clamp by pressing down on tab – you’ll hear a snap as it locks.
8. After fitting the head collar on your dog, consider whether a food reward might be warranted.