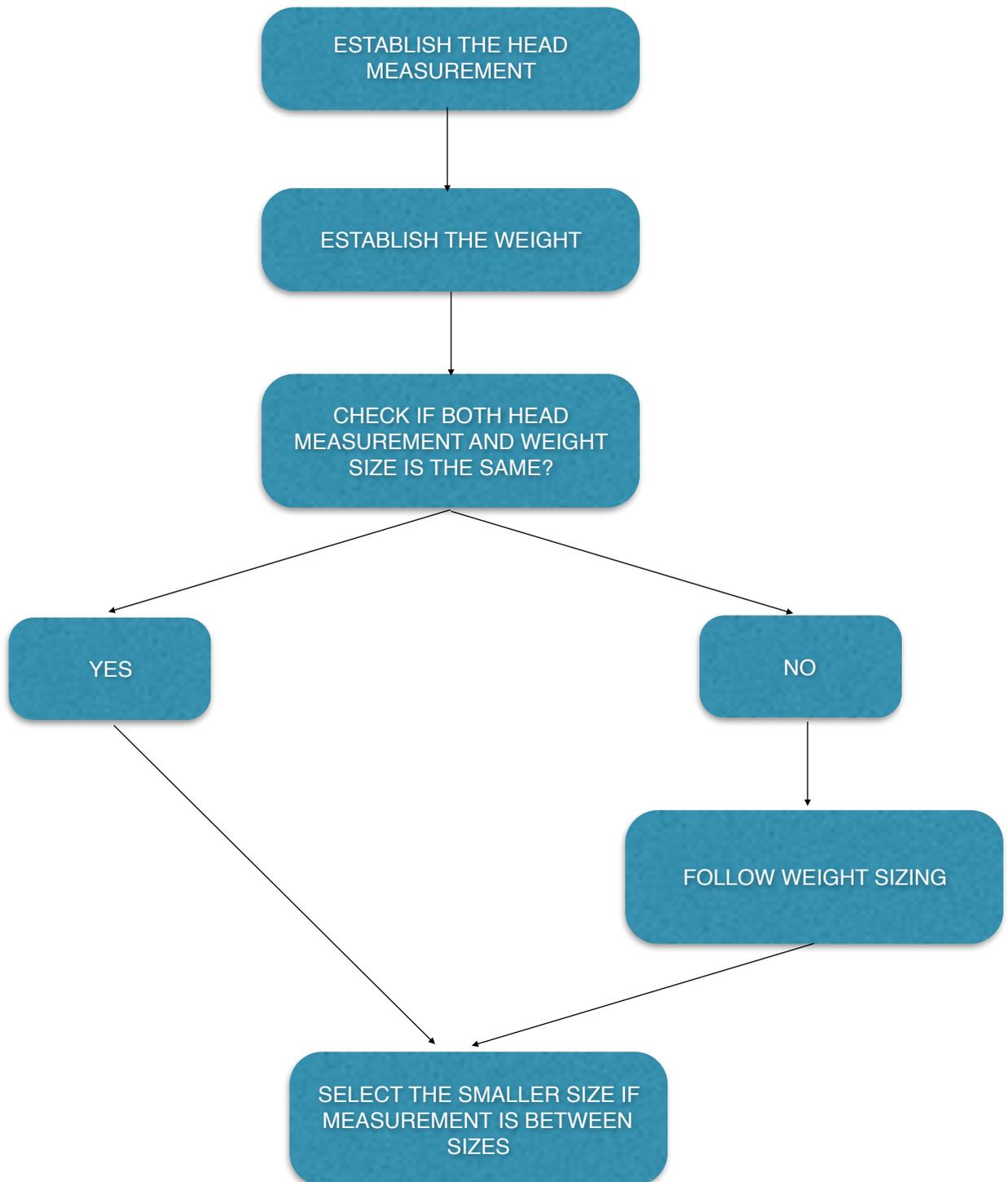




NOVAGUARD - SIZING AND FITTING -



SIZING



STEP 1 - ESTABLISH THE HEAD MEASUREMENT

Find the mid point between the ears. Measure from mid-point to nose tip.

NOTE:

Measure mid point from behind the ears, NOT FRONT. (see left figure)

DO NOT follow contours of the dog's face. Measure in STRAIGHT LINES ONLY. (see right figure)



For normal and short snout dog

SIZE	head length in cm
MINI	< 11
TOY	11 - 13
SMALL	13 - 15
SMALL / MEDIUM	15 - 18
MEDIUM	18 - 21
LARGE	21 - 24
XLARGE	>24

For long snout dog (the greyhound or similar)

SIZE	head length in cm
MINI	< 12
TOY	12 - 15
SMALL	15 - 17
SMALL / MEDIUM	17 - 20
MEDIUM	20 - 23
LARGE	21 - 24
XLARGE	>24



STEP 2 - ESTABLISH THE WEIGHT

SIZE	kg
MINI	< 2*
TOY	2 - 6
SMALL	5 -12
SMALL / MEDIUM	10 - 25
MEDIUM	23 - 35
LARGE	33 - 45
XLARGE	46+

STEP 3- DETERMINE SIZE TO ORDER

You may find that you have two different sizes according to the two tables. This is because, dogs come in all shapes and sizes even within the breed. When this happens, it is always better to size down.



IMPORTANT FITTING GUIDELINE

Animals want to understand and we as pet owners we know they do! We also are guilty of sometimes forgetting to explain something new to them and end up causing some preventable issues.

A FREQUENTLY KNOWN PROBLEM - PET LINK NOVAGUARD TO PAIN

Our customer will get their dog the Novaguard, and either after surgery or during the fitting, the dog's first logical reaction is 'DEFENSE'!

A dog that wakes up from anaesthetic, is in pain, and if the first time they are wearing the Novaguard on their head is after surgery, they can easily think "This new mask is to be blamed for my new pain - so if I tear it off, the pain will stop!"

They will probably have this same thought for a few days, especially when the dog also is blind and does not see what happens.

LINK NOVAGUARD TO POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

- Before the first fitting, give your dog time and let them sniff and rub their face against it.
- Put on the Novaguard on the head without using the straps and immediately give a treat. Only keep the Novaguard for 2-3 seconds and remove. Making it into a play shows them that it is not nothing to be afraid of.
- Repeat the above until dog is use to the feel of the Novaguard on its head and looking through it, and then only then start fitting the Novaguard to your dog
- And don't forget to give them their favourite treats as a reward for their cooperation!

FITTING CRITERIA

Novaguard must have a snug fit, not wobble or shuffle; otherwise it is too big!

If your dog is very active and moves their head a lot, the Novaguard won't slip off and does not slide down onto the shoulders of dogs with long necks when the fit is snug.

IMPORTANT! When fitting the Novaguard on your dog for the first time, make sure it is closed tight enough around the neck so the dog can not slip it off to the front! Remember - if he/she succeeds once, they will try it again and again...

HEADREST

The headrest has to lie parallel to the curve of the head and cover about two-thirds of the width of the head. If the headrest reaches sideways too far, the Novaguard is too large.



The colored headrest should conform against the forehead.

- Novaguard too small? If so, you will see the coloured headrest does not follow the shape of the dog's head, there is a hollow space between the head and the headrest.
- Novaguard too big? If so, you will notice it slides from side to side.



NECK STRAP

At the beginning and until the dog gets used to the Novaguard, the neck strap around the neck should be firmly closed. A finger may still fit in between, otherwise skillful (aka Houdini) dogs can manage to take off the mask. If/when they have gotten used to and accepted it (which shouldn't take long at all), the strap may be slightly loosened.



EAR OPENING

- In front of the ears, the PVC leaves enough space so that there is plenty of ventilation and airflow. This also eliminates the concern of overheating.
- The colored collar needs to leave enough space between, behind and under the ears.



SIDESTRAP

The side strips have to be put through at least TWO of the existing slots and should always end on the outside (NOTE: the photo shows it ending on the inside on the 4th slot, just to make it visible here for instruction purpose!). You should "weave" the side strip through the slots when the Novaguard is very heavily used. Also, if your dog has a very broad head or neck, you may need to end the side strip in the second or third slot (vs. fourth) to help ensure a proper fit.



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LENGTH

We recommend allowing your dog to wear the Novaguard for a while to ensure the fitting has settled before trimming the Novaguard because cutting is permanent. The edges are pre-scored so a pair of scissors is all that is required to trim the Novaguard length.



DO NOT SHORTEN IMMEDIATELY: Please observe your dog how he/she behaves with the unshortened Novaguard. Does he/she have loose neck skin and therefore can push the Novaguard backwards? Is their neck long and narrow (e.g. Greyhounds)? Sometimes dogs - despite having a sufficiently long mask - find a way to "get around" it - then an already shortened mask is often too short.

This dog is wearing the Novaguard pushed "backwards" by pushing it on the floor and sliding it rearwards. Thus, this Novaguard was already too heavily cut.



For Mahou, size and fitting of the Novaguard seems perfect and long enough beyond the nose. Looking closer at the picture though, you can see Mahou's wide and loose neck skin that allows him to slide the tightly fit Novaguard very far back and then nibble on his blue dressing! Unfortunately, this Novaguard has been shortened too much.



EXPAND MASK UNDER THE NECK

If the Novaguard is the right size, but it still appears to be pinching or cutting in below the neck, the edge can be carefully cut out and expanded (see dashed line in the photo). File the cut edge smooth or buffer with a piece of adhesive tape, if needed.