

## Resource Guarding in Dogs – Quick and Easy Tips



### Step 1 – Preparing 🐾

- Find the situations and objects in which you see resource guarding with your dog.
- Examples of resource guarding include displaying assertive or aggressive behavior over toys, objects, laps, people, food, bones, etc.
  - ☺ These tips are applicable for dog-to-dog guarding only. Dog to person guarding is a completely different training.
- Understand resource guarding: this is a normal canine behavior, where a dog feels that its resource is being threatened by the presence of another dog. Contrary to what a lot of people think, the way the other dog approaches is what triggers resource guarding over a given item.
- The dog needs to be fluent with commands of “leave it” and “sit.”
- This training is not appropriate for overly assertive/aggressive dogs that go “right up” and take something or immediately fight for it. This training is for dogs that go from 0 to 5, not 0 to 10 in seconds.

### Step 2 – Action 🐾

- The first step of remediation is to ensure there are plenty of objects/bone/etc. (the guarded object) for all dogs in the household to go to in the event theirs’ gets taken. This automatically lowers the chances of the dogs’ guarding instincts kicking in. For example, if you have 3 dogs, you would have 4 bones.
- Never hand each dog the item, place everything on the floor, spaced far enough apart, so they can pick their own. Dog’s usually think what you give the other dog is better than what you gave them, and will seek to take it! This will solve that problem.
- If the presence of another dog near a food bowl is an issue, expose the dogs to each other in the eating area by hand feeding them some of their food before placing their bowls down. Do this until you no longer see an issue. If the issue persists with food, consider crate feeding or separate the dogs while eating because this can complicate things later down the road, and lead to territorial guarding of *all* resources.

### Step 3 – Command ☑

- We train our dogs to “ask” the other dog for the resource at hand.
- **Train with only 2 dogs at a time.** You must create situations for this training to be effective. Start with giving one of your dogs the object (bone, etc.) NOT in the presence of the other dog. Let the other dog figure it out.
- When the dog approaches the dog with the object, incorporate the sit command (this is non-threatening body posture to the dog with the object). Once your dog is sitting in front of the dog with the object use your “leave it” command and place two more (of the same) objects on the floor in front of you. One of the dogs will get one of the objects you just placed down, and one will get/keep the guarded object. So, it is a win/win.
- When you go to take the objects away from the dogs, be sure to “trade” with a treat before taking them away.
- Practice this 3 times a week until you start to see the “sit” behavior happening on its own. If the other dog says “no,” then it will be much easier for the dog “asking” to back away as they have options.
- See our content for last week’s video where we show the results of this training in action!

Best of luck!! 🐾

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