



RESOURCE GUARDING

STOP! Call a certified trainer to help you modify this behavior!

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Even friendly, social dogs exhibit aggression during specific points of their life. The most common type of dog aggression is resource guarding. This is a very natural thing that some dogs do. Sometimes dog owners are simply able to manage the aggression. Other times, it becomes severe, and the behavior must be modified for safety.

There is hope! It may not happen over-night, however we can alter the way our dog responds when people are around his or her food!

General Rules

- Engage your dog positively while doing these exercises.
- Watch for the dogs warning signs!
 - Accelerated consumption
 - Freeze
 - Growl/snarl/snap/bite

If any of these behaviors occur, throw the treats away from yourself, and get out of there!

- Have a second person with you to hold the leash, or tether the dog to something that can support his or her strength.

Desired Behavior

Dogs should display a positive conditioned emotional response (CER) to all approaches by the trainer or handler. No signs of guarding should be present.



General Procedure

- Each dog should receive 2 food installment sessions per day
- Introduce a new step only when the dog is warmed up from a previous cold trial.
- When you get the CER 3 times in a row, requirement is met. Provide a 2-4 hour break.
- In the next session, remember to preform the previous step as a cold trial – only one CER is necessary during the cold trial to push to the next step.
- Vary time between approaches.
- Incorporate pauses and down time, wearing and not wearing bait bag, different times and different locations.
- End of session requirements:
 - 3 CER's in a row are met.
 - Dog loses interest in food.
 - 10 minutes pass without meeting CER.

Modifying Resource Guarding

Step 1: Installment feeding of dog food

Provide an empty food bowl to the dog. Approach the empty food bowl and add an installment of kibble. Wait for the dog to finish the kibble before approaching and providing the next installment into the bowl. Repeat until either:

- ✓ 3 CER in a row requirement is met.
- ✓ Dog loses interest in eating.
- ✓ 10 minutes have passed without meeting CER

If the CER requirement is met, trainer can move onto step 2. If a full meal has been delivered and CER requirement is not met, repeat step 1 at the next session.

Step 2: Installment feeding of dog food with overlap

Approach the food bowl while dog is still eating the last installment of kibble and add the next installment. Trainer may use some higher-valued treats mixed with kibble to “trump” the value of the kibble currently in bowl.

Provide session break 2-4 hours



Step 3: Provide the unconditioned stimulus food item

Begin new session.

1st trial: cold trial of overlap approach (step 2)

- If CER is evident on first attempt, move to Step 3.
- If no CER, stick to Step 2 with bait upgrades.
- If guarding, drop to Step 1.

2nd trial: If the dogs head lifts out of the bowl (interested in what you are approaching with) provide the unconditioned stimulus food item from trainer's hand to the dogs mouth.

Repeat until one of session conditions is met.

Provide 2-4 hour break

Step 4: Approach bowl of kibble while dog is eating, pull dish away, provide UCS

At this step and all following steps, UCS must be of sufficient high value to trump the current value of the food with-in the bowl.

Begin new session.

1st trial: cold trial of providing the UCS food item (step 3) from trainers hand to dogs mouth.

- If CER is evident on first attempt, move to Step 4.
- If no CER, stick to Step 3 with bait upgrades.
- If guarding, drop to Step 2.

2nd trial: Approach bowl of kibble while dog is eating. Offer the UCS food item, and remove food bowl with Assess-a-hand.

- If CER is evident on first attempt, provide a bowl of canned food immediately after providing UCS (instead of returning bowl with just kibble to the dog) move to Step 5.
- If no CER, stick to Step 3 with UCS bait upgrades.
- If guarding, drop to Step 2.



Provide 2-4 hour break

Step 5: Approach bowl of wet food while dog is eating, provide UCS food and pull the dish away.

- If CER is evident on the first attempt, provide UCS bait upgrade, and remove the bowl.
- If no CER, stick to Step 4 with UCS bait upgrades.
- If guarding, drop to step 2.