



Trading Resources

Resource guarding is a common behavior in dogs that can easily be managed. A dog may guard anything he finds highly valuable, including Rawhides, Pig Ears, Kongs, Toys, or even Stolen Garbage! While resource guarding does not always continue once a dog is settled into a new home, we prefer to be proactive to avoid any potential behavioral problems in our adoptable dogs. Training in your home will help build a strong and trusting relationship that will allow you to safely and happily enjoy your new companion for years to come.

- **Never Take:** Taking things away from your dog without giving something in return creates competition. Do not attempt to take your dog's high value resource while he is eating it. Instead, start throwing yummy treats by your dog when he is enjoying his valuable resource. This will teach him that when you walk by, he gets even more yummy things!
- **Trade:** Start to offer your dog a high value treat by holding it by your dog. If your dog drops his resource, tell him he is a good boy and give him the treat. After practicing this for a few days, he will begin dropping the resource right when he sees you have yummy treats to trade with him. You can eventually add the verbal cue "drop it" right before he puts down his resource. Eventually, you will be able to say "drop it" and he will understand what that means. Always follow through and give him a treat so that he eagerly continues to play the game of "drop it."
- **Separate Multiple Dogs:** If you have multiple dogs in your home, separate them to different parts of the house to enjoy high value resources.
- **Use Positive Reinforcement:** Never punish your dog for showing guarding behaviors. Punishing your dog for growling, baring teeth, or other undesired behavior will only create competition and break down your relationship. If he is punished for growling, next time he might not growl and choose to bite instead.

By following these guidelines, your dog will begin to trade you their highly valuable resource for a tasty treat even before you ask them.

If you are having any issues with resource guarding, please contact our training facility, New Dawn Animal Behavior Center, at: www.NewDawnABC.com or call 727-415-1567

New Dawn
Animal Behavior Center

SPCA TAMPA BAY