



MANAGING RESOURCE GUARDING

As your adoption counselor discussed with you, your dog displayed resource guarding while in the shelter. This means that your dog may be more likely to show aggression around his food or toys than some other dogs.

Resource guarding dogs may bite when they perceive that someone is trying to take or invade their space while a resource is present. A resource may include but is not limited to; the dog's food, food bowl, food toys, toys, resting area (dog bed, crate, human's bed), novel items (garbage, shoes, tissue paper, etc.), personal space. 55% of dogs that show resource guarding in the shelter environment do not show signs in the home environment. The majority of resource guarding cases can be managed or sometimes completely irradiated if the following steps are followed:

The Plan (for food / food bowl guarding):

Food time should never be made into an event: Do not get the dog riled up for dinner.

Be sure your dog sits and waits for the food bowl: For the first few days, you likely want to keep the leash on the dog for this exercise. As the dog sits, you will bend to place the food bowl on the ground. If the dog breaks his stay, stand up and have the dog sit again. Repeat until he can stay seated while you lower the bowl. Verbally release him (with OKAY for example) to get his food so that he knows he can break his stay.

If you have other dogs and children: Always feed the dog in an isolated area. Call the dog out of the room when he is finished eating. Remove the food bowl before other dogs or children enter the area. Your dog may defend an empty food bowl. Practice the same method with toys and unfinished treats.

Support:

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at behaviour@gths.ca

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