

## How to Avoid Resource Guarding



Some dogs are predisposed to guard their food or toys as they grow older. It is not something that can be predicted, however, it can create a very dangerous predicament if not corrected early on. A large portion of dog bites come as a result of a child approaching a dog with food or a toy. To be safe, it is best to teach all puppies that guarding possessions is not acceptable. Start from an early age, before your puppy shows signs of food bowl aggression. The following tips will teach your puppy that when someone approaches the bowl, only good things happen!

- 🐾 Feed a couple of kibbles by hand
- 🐾 Pet and sit by your puppy when he or she is eating
- 🐾 When the puppy is eating, take the food bowl away without warning, add a tasty treat and return the bowl
- 🐾 When your puppy is playing with a toy, take the toy away, give a yummy treat, return the toy

If you notice that your puppy is already starting to show signs of food bowl aggression, or guarding of possessions, ask your veterinary team member to recommend an appropriate dog trainer that will help teach you how to work with your puppy.

## Behaviour and Training



- 🐾 Don't wait for your puppy to signal his or her need to go outside
  - 🐾 Keep a regular schedule for feeding and walks
  - 🐾 Don't punish a puppy who has had an accident



### Housetraining Your Puppy

Until your puppy is three to four months old, they have limited bowel and bladder control. Following these guidelines can help limit the number of accidents.

#### Guidelines

- 🐾 Remember that most accidents happen by allowing your puppy too much freedom, too soon.
- 🐾 Confine your puppy unless you can provide direct supervision.
- 🐾 Have regularly scheduled feeding and walk times.
- 🐾 Take your puppy outside first thing in the morning, after naps and meals, and before you go to bed.
- 🐾 Reward your puppy for eliminating outside; always go outside with your puppy so you can reward good behaviour.

- 🐾 Never punish a puppy who has had an accident. Instead, prevent your puppy from ever having the need to eliminate inside.
- 🐾 Don't wait for your puppy to signal his or her need to go out, take them out on a regular schedule.

### Travel Training

The best time to start traveling with your puppy is when he or she is young, allowing them to get used to travel gradually.

- 🐾 Calm your dog before a trip with some exercise or play
- 🐾 Make sure to pack your puppy's food to avoid an upset stomach
- 🐾 Keep your dog on a leash during rest stops

If you have any difficulties traveling with your puppy or dog, consult your veterinary team for advice. For further training advice and resources, contact your veterinary team for recommendations.