

GOOD DOG WORKS!

For Dogs, Puppies and People Too.

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“Trade” or “Hey, Give me that!”

Prevention Training for Resource Guarding

(If your dog has air snapped or bitten please ask an experienced trainer to work with you)

Dogs guard things, yes they do. Some do it more often, with more stuff and more ferocity than others but almost every dog will do it. So let's teach them to give us stuff instead! Often the first sign that a dog is saying “Mine!” is a slightly lowered head and a very stiff or frozen body posture. What do you do? Believe the warning, back up.

If your dog guards something that may harm her, or something you love, try tossing some great food on the floor away from her and when she goes to investigate pick up the object or put your foot on it. Try to avoid a confrontation.

If your dog is a serious guarder of rawhides, pigs ears or some other particular item. remove those things from her world for now.

Teaching the Exchange Game

To set you and your dog up for success start with some fabulous food and a low value item that your dog finds mildly interesting.

1-Give the item to your dog or put it between her paws

2-Say “Trade”

3-Hold the yummy food right in front of her nostrils. Let her lick it-but hold onto it.

4-With the other hand pick up the item

5-Now give her the tasty bit of food

6-Now---and this is most important! **Give the item back to your dog!**

Repeat the above 10 times using the same item.

Next step: Repeat the above using an item that is just a little more valuable to your dog.

You are creating an exchange bank account with your dog. These are deposits.

Continue 10 times each with 10 different items slowly increasing in value. If there is even a hint of a freeze go back and redo the program from the beginning.

Always trade up-with something of equal or better value! At some point you will make a withdrawal from this account. You will take something from your dog that you will not be giving back—but give her something else---throw a ball, give her a new acceptable toy or drop some treats on the ground.

For more detail on Resource Guarding see [Mine!](#) By Jean Donaldson

This handout developed from a technique used by Carolyn Clark.