

Preventing resource guarding involves several processes that teach the puppy that the presence of humans next to his possessions predicts more, even better possessions, and has nothing to do with losing the valuable object already at hand. Try to treat this problem objectively as possible. Dog owners can be very insulted that the dog that just took a bone from this hand, wants to bite that hand a minute later. However, from the dog's point of view it is not personal. The way he sees it if you left it, and he has it, it's his.

### **Step by Step:**

1. Preventing possessiveness over food:
  - a. Prepare very tasty treats that are much better than your dog's dry food.
  - b. Give the puppy a bowl of dry food and while she is eating, approach the bowl and throw several tasty treats in it. Repeat several times.
  - c. Now, approach the bowl and actually put the treats in it while your puppy is eating. Repeat several times.
  - d. You may reach a stage where your puppy stops eating when you approach and looks at you for the tastier treats – this is a sign to move to the next step.
  - e. Approach the food bowl and while your puppy is eating, pick it up, put the treats in the bowl and give the bowl back to your puppy. Repeat several times.
  - f. Repeat those exercises several times a week and with many individuals as possible. We want the puppy to generalize that if a human being approaches his bowl, good things happen.
  - g. You can also pet your puppy while he is eating and while dropping treats in the bowl. The puppy needs to get used to being touched while eating.
  - h. Kids can be involved in these exercises but only other parental supervision. If your dog has shown possession aggression before, do not let children do these exercises and consult a behavior specialist to help you with the case.