



Woofpack Dog Training  
www.woofpacknc.com

## Resource Guarding

Dogs are scavengers and are very opportunistic animals. They have to be for survival! Unfortunately, sometimes this means that they can be protective of the valuable resources they've found. These resources can include but are not limited to food, water, bedding, humans, toys, and even more.

### Know the Signs

- Growling
- Freezing
- Running Away with Items
- Air Snapping/Warning Bites
- Aggression (Intent to Harm)

### The Dog's Perspective

Try to think of this from your dog's perspective. They don't know that you worked hard to earn money to purchase an item. In the dog's eyes, if they found it, it's theirs. If every time they pick up an item, you run after them and take it, you're the aggressor. In their minds it's only right that they defend their territory.

### Don't Punish Growling

Of course no one wants their dog to growl at them but growling is a warning. When a dog growls, they are letting you know they are uncomfortable. If you ignore the growl, they have to escalate their behavior to get their point across. Ignoring the growl teaches dogs that growling doesn't work. The next behavior they're going to use to get you to go away will likely be a bite!

### Know When To Consult a Professional

Resource guarding can be a very dangerous behavior and has led to many bites, especially for children. If your dog is guarding, it's very important to work through the behavior with someone who is experienced so that the behavior does not worsen.

### Muzzle Training

Muzzles are so important for safety! Any behavior that can lead to a bite or someone being harmed means your pup should learn how to wear a muzzle before you can work through the issue. This is for the safety of you AND your dog. Minor resource guarding may not require a muzzle but you should never risk safety to avoid muzzle training.

\*If your dog is showing any signs of aggression, consult your trainer or a veterinary behaviorist.