

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

Resource guarding.

Some dogs display resource guarding in various ways some to the extreme.

This is the dog's way of warning others (people of the household and other pets or intruders) to keep away from a certain procession the dog value and perceived to be theirs, to a point of guarding and defending these chosen resource.

A resource is often food, toys, a place or a person.

You will come to notice this behaviour early on – from as young as 10 week of age or it can become a learned behaviour later on in the dog's life.

Much of this could be caused by your methods of socializing of caused by what you allow or specifically (not even realizing) teach the dog or allow the dog to become an accepted way of responding.

Sometimes self-taught in the litter growing up.

By presenting the dog with an object and or food and allowing the dog to aggressively guard these possessions you or against other people, or pets.

In this article do not confuse the dog to dog issues – especially with APBT - this breed normally is not a pack animal and will be more aggressive around other dogs especially with their food / toys / space and any perceived possessions – tends to relate also directly to jealousy – is a relatively common approach.

But with raising the puppy the dog's socialization and play skills should be coming along nicely and the dog should developing good acquired bite inhibition.

The excessive guarding against people and things (objects) however, needed to be actively resolved.

The key to good hierarchy design is small enough incremental steps training (in training, conditioning or rehabilitation behaviour) so that at no point you should see the original guarding problem behaviour.

In the case of a puppy excessively displaying guarding phobias, there may actually be more aggressive increment jumps – you will access and also know the dog in question.

You can do a few other things in the can't-hurt-might-help category to establish trust and respect.

These included impulse control (firm demanding voice – no! stay! off! and wait!) and extra soft-mouth training (by continually petting scratching and touching the mouth, ears, nose and or any part of the body – this build trust and it goes hand in hand with soft talk.

Food guarding - When approached while the dog is eating from the dog's dish, the pup might freeze and, if approach continued, growl briefly and then lunge and snap.

If touched earlier on while eating – even putting some food from your hand into their mouth would solve this problem.

Due to the independent body-handling problem, this had to be partly resolved prior to combining it with food bowl exercises.

This type of dog usually does not guard an empty dish.

The process.

1. Instalment feeding of canned food method.

Sit on the floor next to the dog's dish and spoon in one mouthful.

Once the pup had swallowed, spoon the next mouthful into the dog's dish – do so one spoon at a time - until the complete meal is served – the dog will come to realize you are present and giving and not taking away – in this process talk to the dog and praise the dog complying.

By the 2nd or 3rd meal served like this the dog will demonstrate a clear happy anticipatory orientation to your presence, the spoon and your hand - this acceptance behaviour after each swallow – expecting more nourishment with no fear or perceived need to guard the meal.

2. Step it up - dish it up while eating - this is about the same as Step 1 except that you add the next spoonful to the dog's dish while the dog is still consuming the first spoonful.

Knowing the dog it could be a much dicier proposition ... but the dog is by now is easy and expecting to be fed this way and within the next 3 meals will expect your dishing up while eating what is still in the feed pan - within three meals fed like this the dog will eat without evidence of guarding and will demonstrate a clear happy anticipatory orientation to your presence, the spoon and your hand and you dishing up while eating.

3. Step up with approach while serving the food in the feed pan while the dog is still eating.

But now do the feeding standing up and not sitting – the same as above ... but stand – you are bigger and the dog is lower and the dog will look up at you – you became the trusted Alpha figure.

While standing - spoon larger instalments – while the dog is eating casually step back two paces, re-approach casually while talking to the dog and added the next spoonful - while the dog is still eating, this combined approach with the dog expecting and accepting food and you standing and moving forward and back while the dog eat - the dog will eat without evidence of guarding and will demonstrated a clear happy anticipatory orientation to your presence, the spoon and your hand and you dishing up and moving towards and away while eating.

4. Feed like this for three meals, at end of which time a conditioned emotional response will become evident – The dog should wag tail in anticipation and looked up on approach.

Repeat the exercise for one more days (5 small meals per day instead of one big meal).

All the time with larger withdrawal distances and intervals and talking to the dog – the dog might by now come to meet you tail wagging and accompany you to the feed pan contented.

5. Now spoon by hand the entire meal ration into the dogs bowl.

Withdrew five paces, paused 15 second (this while the dog is still eating) – approach casually and with confidence and add (hidden) marble-sized strong cheese / biltong or dry “wors”.

You can know this by experience (proved by you) that the dog love the cheese / biltong or whatever snack.

Withdraw again to six or paces and wait for the dog to continue to consume the food or treat and walk to the dog ... talking and raising.

The dog will eat without evidence of guarding and will demonstrated a clear happy anticipatory orientation to your presence, around. You should get a clear conditioned emotional response – withdrawal from bowl on approach or sit and wait orientation to you and tail wagging.

6. You can now try some approaches while the dog is eating given treats rather than normal meal ration level food and should see the dog happy with clear conditioned emotional response, a very rapid curve indeed.

7. To better simulate real life - at least once per meal, from a random direction, at a random time and with a special treat approach and add the bonus biltong or dry or cooked sausage." You should get an 80% + success and at no point a dog guarding the food.

8. You can by now ask someone in the family (household) to accompany you - to do some random feeding with you also available and with careful monitoring for any evidence of mistrusting people aggression, including the absence of a conditioned emotional response to their approach.

Had this been an adult dog, the hierarchy – and, notably, a much more gradual one too – would have been recommenced at the beginning by each new recruit, with likely accelerated progress rate for each successive person.

9. Body handling - It will by now be the time to commenced with petting and ear, neck or tummy scratch while the dog is eating. In most cases this would come earlier (prior to cold trails) – trust has been established.

The dog conditioned emotional response will consist of a peaceful facial expression (you will know) and tail wagging excepting hand handling.

If you keep the treat in your close hand or behind your back or in your pocket the dog will enthusiastically sniff and look for it without any aggression even lick your hand.

The dog will by now be on maintenance – excepting feed and interference while eating and also should except to be fed and handled by other family members.