

## RESOURCE Guarding in Animals

Ed Marits from Mt Vernon · 3d ago



For those of you who have experienced this, you know how bad this can be. The picture in General is of one of the two RG dogs I was deprogramming... And both were with me for almost 3 months... and we were 90% successful and they are at forever homes in PA...

RG is an inbred trait of many animals... You can see it on TV if you watch a wildlife show... It is a survival instinct... and I am sure that makes sense to you... What doesn't is why is MY dog doing this... He/she is a love bug... never a growl etc. etc. and then all of a sudden, I have Cujo...

So here are a few things to consider

1. It is natural and sometimes reinforced by experiences in their youth... e.g. Rescues/Shelters often have young animals that must compete for food and they learn or are reinforced in RG...
2. If you have an older animal (mid life), just learn to work around it... and learn what not to do to agitate animal... If you have a younger dog or even a pup, you can try to deprogram it... BUT, it is a very labor intensive process and from personal experience I can tell you that you might take a hit or two... My two trainees were the most loving animals... I tried to put down their food and I got whacked a few times... I wasn't taking it away, I was giving it...
3. Recognize that it is a GOOD thing for animals, because they have to protect things for survival... RG is also den protection or space/location protection, can be protection of offspring that are not even there, can be a toy or other personal object... Personal as in shoe...
4. Basic thing - it is normal and it is a desirable characteristic in some animals...

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