



# Possessive behaviour in dogs...

## There are many reasons

Dogs can become possessive over things, people or places for many reasons:

- Physically unwell and bad tempered.
- Jealous of a newcomer to their home.
- Intimidated by other dogs in the home.
- Think they are entitled to do anything.

Using some very simple rules you can help them to be less possessive.

Firstly, ensure that the problem isn't caused by discomfort or pain, ask your vet if you need to.

## Regaining control

It is important that you must start to become the dog's leader.

Most possessive behaviour is caused by dogs thinking that they have a right to defend their property from you or anyone else.

As their owner and leader you are the best person to ensure they don't behave like that.

To overcome this behaviour and achieve good and permanent results you need to use brains rather than physical control.

To begin with, remove all treats, toys and privileges that they get. From now on they must earn everything they want.

You must start by teaching them to sit, as a way of saying please, for everything they want.

You must never give into them when they are demanding. Always wait for them to stop demanding, before giving them what they want.

You still give them the stimulation and everything they need, but only as and when you decide.

## Plenty of stimulation

You will need you to give them plenty of play and attention, but you need to decide where, when and for how long.

Your dog must never be allowed to start the play or get attention that you didn't start.

If at any time they start getting aggressive, stop the activity immediately. Walk away and ignore them for at least 5 minutes. This is to demonstrate that you won't tolerate that behaviour.

## The immovable object

Dogs that won't move from a couch or car etc. can be a problem, with a bit of persuasion you can get them to move and teach them how to behave in the process.

Start by offering a distraction or treat. Opening a biscuit tin or showing them a favourite toy, usually works.

If they won't come leave them totally on their own. After 5 minutes, try again. Eventually, they will learn that when they respond, they get a treat otherwise they get totally ignored.

## Fair exchange is no robbery

You are not bribing them, you are simply telling them that if they do what you ask, they will be rewarded.

You are also reinforcing that you have the power to give rewards as and when you choose.

Please don't be tempted to force or shout at them, you will only make them more determined to defend their position.

Instead you must convey to them that they are losing out by not moving, and that you really couldn't care less either way.