

Hounds with Hearts



When your dog is resource protective there are a number of things to be done.

✓ For toys - as soon as he/she shows the slightest sign remove the toy/item after a few min go through the process again. Trick is to be consistent & stay with it for a while. Don't do it only when it happens, makes it happen.

✓ Food - sit as close as possible to your dog, place a small amount of food into his bowl if he reacts negatively, remove the food, continue until the dog stops reactive negatively, growling or whining or falls over from hunger 😊

✓ Bark at people - separate dog via baby gate fence etc when someone enters the house have them drop a high value treat into the dogs area, without saying anything or looking at the dog.

✓ Toys, we hope the dog will figure out that his negative actions loses the toy

✓ Food - same as with toy

✓ Barking at people we hope the dog will associate seeing people with something good, a treat.

With Dexter there is something else going on, maybe it's in his

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genes. I don't know. On several occasions I've seen him initiate contact with people & then growl or bark at that person. He did this to both his handlers. I could never trust him around other people w/o a muzzle on.

Being pragmatic are there not many more dogs greys & pound puppies that deserve a home.

What kind of life will he have if caged or muzzled all the time?

Ralph Wagner



GREYHOUND ADVANCEMENT CENTER

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Dexter got here fine and after a few weeks developed an unacceptable behavior of growling at people. Which may have been incidentally reinforced. Dog growls people move away and/or handler takes dog away. The first thing that comes to mind is lack of firm leadership. Leadership does not mean, in any way, abuse, but someone to set rules and boundaries. Dogs don't know what behavior is acceptable or unacceptable in a human environment. They look up to it's owner/handler for direction. If it's human can't lead him he will lead himself. Managing his environment is very important. First of all by managing you avoid reinforcing the unwanted behavior and second you keep the behavior from escalating to a bite. You need to have the dog check by a veterinarian to rule out any medical issues that may be causing the behavior. If a dog feels any kind of pain or discomfort he may not want people touching him. The behavior modification technique needs to change the dog's behavioral and emotional response to the stimuli that causes the unwanted behavior. It can involve changing the dog's association with the stimulus from negative to positive by pairing it with very high value treats. The dog's behavior will only change if you invest the time and effort into making it happen. The dog's behavior will not change just by managing the environment. You actually have to work with the dog and the stimuli, to change his emotional state of mind and his behavioral response.