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Factors associated with canine resource guarding behaviour in the presence of people: A cross-sectional survey of dog owners

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Highlights

- Resource guarding aggression may be reduced by teaching dogs to drop items
- Adding palatable food during meals may reduce resource guarding behaviour
- Removing the food dish during meals may increase resource guarding behaviour
- Resource guarding behaviour patterns are flexible in the presence of people

Abstract

Resource guarding (RG) involves the use of specific behaviour patterns to control access to an item of potential "value" to the dog. Of particular concern are patterns involving aggression, due to safety concerns, but other patterns of RG behaviour are prevalent and include avoidance (i.e., positioning of the head or body to maintain item control, or location change with the item) and

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