

## SHARING IS GOOD

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### Behavioral Vaccine #2

We all understand that puppies need to get vaccines for things such as parvo and rabies. But it is equally as important for puppies to get what is now being called “behavior vaccines.” These are the types of training and experiences that help your pup become comfortable in your world and they reduce the risk of fear and aggression later in life. Each week in class, we will talk about things you can do to “vaccinate” your puppy against problems later on. This week, the behavior vaccine topic is Sharing is Good.

### Why Is It Important?

Dogs like to grab hold of things they shouldn’t have, so it’s important that we’re able to take inappropriate objects away. Dogs also like to lie down with a chewie without being disturbed or worrying that someone is going to take their chewie away. If you don’t vaccinate your puppy against growling or snapping at you when you get too close to a favorite toy or chewable, you can end up with a dog that has possession aggression.

### Why Sharing Doesn’t Come Naturally...

Predators that easily give up resources (like food and shelter) don’t last long in the wild. It’s normal for them to become aggressive when something or someone tries to take their valuables away. It’s unusual for them to give up valuable resources without protest or at the very least try to run off and hide whatever it is.

### Behavioral Vaccination Training

\*If at any point your puppy growls, snaps or bites at you when practicing any of these exercises, stop what you’re doing and contact your trainer right away.

- Teach your puppy to drop items like toys when asked and progress to his favorite things.
- Trade out something your puppy has for something even better. Sometimes give him the original item back and sometimes keep it.
- Avoid chasing your puppy down and forcing him to let go of something he has in his mouth.

If in a pinch, create a Hansel-and-Gretel trail of treats away from the object your puppy is being possessive about.

### Food Bowl Training

Exercise 1. For a few days, hand-feed your puppy. Sit with your puppy while she eats. Put a handful of kibble in the bowl. When the bowl is empty, put in another handful until she has eaten her entire meal.

Exercise 2. While your puppy is eating, approach her bowl and toss a small treat on the floor or into the bowl. This will teach her to feel good about you being close to her food bowl.

When your puppy wags her tail and/or looks up at you expectantly as you approach her food bowl, move on to Exercise 3.

Exercise 3. Approach your puppy’s bowl, take it away, put something even better than what she was eating in the bowl, and then give her the bowl back. This will teach her to look forward to you taking her food bowl.