



Mine! - A Practical Guide To Resource Guarding In Dogs

Jean Donaldson

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Winner of the DWAA Maxwell Award for 2002, Training and Behavior Book.

A practical how-to guide on resource guarding - food bowl, object, bed, crate, owner, etc. - in dogs. Contents include: aggression basics, nature of resource guarding, kinds of resource guarding, behaviorist vs. medical models, recognizing guarding, prognosis, safety tools, treatment overview, management, desensitization and counterconditioning, resource sample hierarchies, generalization, troubleshooting, body handling desensitization, operant conditioning.

What dog trainers are saying about Jean Donaldson's *Mine!*

A totally comprehensive and practical treatment of a common and very serious behavior problem,. Jean Donaldson translates complex animal learning theory into useable procedures–without sacrificing scientific accuracy. Anyone who works with dogs will benefit from reading *Mine!*

Suzanna Hetts, PhD, author of *Pet Behavior Protocols*

Author **Jean Donaldson** has over 30 years experience in dog behavior and training. As the Founder and Director of the San Francisco SPCA Academy for Dog Trainers, Jean leads a new generation of dog trainers to better understanding of the research and science of canine behavior. Jean's award winning book, *The Culture Clash*, is a pivotal book in the dog trainer's library because it called into question many sacred assumptions about the origins of behavior and behavior problems. Jean lives in the San Francisco area with her Chow Chow, Buffy.

Mine! - A Practical Guide To Resource Guarding In Dogs Details

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Bark says

This is a book for a dog trainer or serious and dedicated dog owner who is facing guarding resource problems (getting all growly, bitey over food, people, furniture, etc.) This book isn't for the casual pet owner because it's far too technical and dry for a brand new pet owner but I'd recommend a copy for anyone who has done some obedience work and fosters, rescues, etc. because you really never know what you may face until you get the dog inside your home.

The author lists step-by-step techniques and guidance to help a dog become a safe(r) member of the family and society and addresses only guarding problems and body handling issues. One of the desensitization programs has 40+ steps and dogs can backslide (there are tips for this) if you go too fast, so this is no quick fix people. But it's a great alternative to euthanasia or negative /harsh training methods.

Personally, though I find the steps and the information in the book extremely helpful I didn't care for the overly technical jargon the author uses. It made the book deadly dull to read from cover to cover (which I did) but I will keep it and I'm sure I will find it incredibly helpful when faced with a dog exhibiting these issues but then I can just skip over to the chapter helpful to me at the time.

I really like this author's perspective. She says that people expect dogs to live their lives without ever losing their temper and says that's like expecting a person to go through life never getting angry and raising their voice. Well, I would've been put down at 13 if that were the case ;)

I also appreciated the chapter on preventing these situations in the first place by socializing, touching and grooming a puppy. These chapters should be mandatory reading for everyone bringing home a new puppy. There is only a small window during puppyhood to do this and it's soooo important and something so many dogs don't get to experience thus the issues with nail clipping, vet handling and growly behavior. I can't tell you how many dogs I groomed in my short stint as a groomer who bit, peed, screamed and were absolutely petrified to be touched in any way.

Empress5150 says

Lucy's trainer recommended I read this book to get a better understand about where Lucy may be coming from (as if).

Seriously, it's not something I could truly say I liked, didn't like, etc., which is why it got the 3 star middle of the road rating. I found it helpful, which was the point.

I didn't really finish it, either. The latter part of the book was pretty much step by step instructions on how to work with a dog with resource guarding issues. Since the primary issue Lucy has is with food and the cats, I didn't really see how I could work with her on that without putting the cats in potential danger.

Anyway, I'm keeping the book as a resource/reference guide but I sure hope I'll not need it.

Grace says

Just as the title indicates, this is a practical guide to treating resource guarding in dogs. The exercises in this book are backed by the science of animal learning theory and are presented very clearly and thoroughly step by step. The methods described to treat and modify resource guarding behavior are humane and ethical. This book is slim; therefore, a relatively quick read. It provides all of the needed information in a manner that is compact yet thorough enough. I highly recommend this book to anyone whose dog exhibits resource guarding as well as all individuals who are involved with rescue dogs (shelter volunteers, fosters, etc.).

Chris says

Great book about how to work with your resource guarding dog. I particularly like how she breaks down each of the different hierarchies, because that really helps to understand the process of counterconditioning and desensitizing a dog. I also think it provides an almost ready-made tool that is easy for struggling pet families to easily implement. I know I am going to use several of these as I work with my dog who has issues.

Nicole says

This book is very technical and I find it very hard to sell to people that have no experience with dog training. I understand most of it but even my experience isn't that advanced but I've only been in the field for two years trying to learn everything I can. The exercises in it are well laid out and I would encourage anybody with a resource guarding dog and a basic knowledge of training and behavior to try it.

Sarah ♥ Vutch forever ♥ says

This is a must-read for dog owners, especially those of resource-guarding dogs.

Kyra says

Another slim book every single dog trainer, canine behaviourist, rescue person and shelter worker should have on their reference shelf. MINE presents a clear explanation of various guarding behaviours and a series of exercises to overcome the problem. I recommend this book to everyone who adopts a Jack Russell terrier from our rescue (since as everyone knows JRTs specialize in shouting "mine!"). Thank you, Ms Donaldson.

Michelle says

This is one of Jean Donaldson's better books--it was very helpful and had lots of good suggestions for dealing with resource guarding of various types. Sadly, it is just a guide and pamphlet, and doesn't go into troubleshooting much, nor details of more unorthodox forms of guarding. She mentions them briefly, at least, so that gives hopes to those that have an unusual case.

Sandra says

Every year I reread all of my behavior books, and find new things I love and don't like. While *The Culture Clash* started out as one of my most favorite books and I keep stumbling over details that rub me the wrong way (the suggestion of spray collars, etc), this book gets better. It really is written for trainers and a lot of dog owners may find it much too dry or too complicated to read, but I love the way it describes canine skill acquisition and the concept of counter-conditioning and desensitizing to change the conditioned emotional response of heavy guarders. No aversives necessary. JD gives very detailed, amazing hierarchies owners and trainers can work up and down in order to truly change the lives of dogs exhibiting RG, and their families. If your dog growls when you walk by while he's eating a bone, doesn't like you coming near his food bowl or the bed he's sleeping in, this is for you. However, I think even owners of dogs who are ok with being handled and don't present with RG issues could benefit greatly from this. Essential reading IMO.

Sarah Draughon says

This book is fantastic for readers who have a strong prior knowledge of learning theory, counter conditioning and desensitization. There are several very well fleshed out protocols for resource guarding behavior modification. There is also a great example of how to work on body handling issues, which Donaldson suggests commonly co-occurs with resource guarding behavior.

There are very few other detailed resources out there. The only unfortunate aspect of this book is that, while it's often recommended on forums and by trainers for owners to read, I highly doubt that the average pet owner could read and understand the concepts in this book without reading several primer books first.

For professionals and training enthusiasts, this is the best book out there for addressing resource guarding behaviors.

Nikki Wilde says

So, my behaviorist recommended this book for me. However, I didn't get through the entire book. Like others have said, it's very dry. It reads like a textbook. The problem for me is that my dog does not guard things or food from me. Just other dogs. I needed something that would teach me how to stop him from attacking our other pets if they get too close to his food. Perhaps, this text book does go into that further in the book but I couldn't get there.

It felt like I was going over the same thing, over and over again. I was like, when do I get to the part about how to stop him from getting my other pups? Finally, I gave up. I'm lucky he doesn't keep things from me and the fact that I've rescued several dogs, I've been super lucky so far in this department.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

This is an excellent concise book describing what resource guarding (RG) is and the myths and fallacies around it. This is a great resource for a person looking to have a deep understanding of RG and an appreciation for the many steps involved in helping the dog and the human find a safe way to live with it. It takes commitment, patience, and time to learn to deal with but may very likely save your dogs life.

I think anyone who works with foster or rescue dogs must read this book because it's very likely to show up in those groups. I've always had dogs I raised from puppyhood according the principles of puppy training espoused by the guru (IMO) Ian Dunbar. I never saw RG until we recently adopted a retired racing Greyhound.

We are all learning and this book has been a big help.

Armin says

The hierarchies make sense and can be very helpful. The proof will be in the pudding, I'll be able to use some strategies for our object guading dog.

Shawndra says

I was hoping for a usable guide to working with my dog on his resource guarding issues. It is heartening to know there is a nonconfrontational way to deal with this very common issue. But even though I've done a lot of reading on positive reinforcement training methods and have used them with success in other areas, I had a hard time with the overly technical tone of this book. Donaldson used way too much jargon, but then again this book is targeted to training professionals. I would have liked to see sample worksheets for tracking progress, and the overwhelmingly long numbered lists of microsteps could have been broken down into phases.

I did like her take on the high expectations on today's dogs - we expect them to go through life without ever losing their temper or defending their space.

Nickie says

I would recommend this book while working in conjunction with a trainer with an exceptional understanding of desensitization and counterconditioning. It was recommended to me by our trainer when our dog developed resource guarding of us after he ran away from his sitters. We've been using D&C for 6 months successfully to help with anxiety and fear of people. Now, I have a more theoretical knowledge to apply it to other issues.

