

Stealing

Stealing inanimate objects of any kind is quickly learnt as a means of gaining or seeking attention. I steal, you chase. Unless likely to be expensive or dangerous not intervening is usually the best option therefore attention isn't received.

Knowing how to deal effectively with a dog that steals makes living with them much more pleasant. Looking why pets steal is important to know how to deal with it.

Attention seeking

As described, I steal you chase, is a good strategy to get attention. It is important to ensure all your pet's needs are being met during their daily routine. Play, exercise, feeding, grooming, health care and availability of fresh drinking water. Once the availability of these has been established and a good routine is in place, you can begin to measures to control this behaviour.

Control

Taste deterrents are usually the preferred option to prevent persistent offenders. These bitter tasting sprays can be applied to most materials and objects. As the dog takes the item in their mouth, they simultaneously have an unpleasant bitter tasting sensation. The pet learns that certain objects no longer taste too good and learns to avoid them.

A few empty tins tied with string to a favourite pair of shoes, then placed on a high surface sets an effective trap for your dog. As the dog takes the slipper, thinking he has got clean away, an almighty crash follows. This is likely to startle the dog and drop the item. If you can control your dog in a subtle manner, with a small squirt of water from a small water pistol, this too can be a good method of controlling a persistent thief.

Appropriate chew toys and pacification toys such as food filled toys should be made available. These give the dog plenty to do and think about and prevent them from getting bored.

Ensure there are plenty of opportunities within the dog's daily routine that he receives your attention. Playing tug-o-war and other interactive games gives the dog the attention he deserves, but at a time convenient to you and on your terms. Be consistent with your training.

