

# Feeding New Dogs

By Beth Widdows

**I NEVER feed new dogs near each other. I put them in different rooms even. Later you may be able to move them closer but at the start, keep them far apart. I often feed the new ones in their crate so there is no chance of this sort of problem. Your dog may get very possessive of food and it is the place that most fights start. This is very normal for dogs, esp. the boys. To them, things tend to be much more basic. Food means life. They will guard their food carefully.**

**Now if the dog doesn't let YOU get near his food, that can be dealt with. First, make sure your dog is nowhere around when you do this.**

**1. Hand feed him, a kibble at a time. Make him sit before he gets anything. If he stands, he has to sit for the next kibble. Do this for a few meals. When he is doing well go to the next step. This helps him understand that you control the food .... you are the alpha. Right now, he doesn't know who is boss and he will naturally try to be boss. You have to make sure he understands that you rule the kingdom.**

**2. Put some kibble in the dish (not all of his meal) and tell him to sit. When he does, put the dish down on the floor BUT don't let go. Hold the dish while he eats. (He can stand to eat) Part way through, lift the dish. Then have him sit again and put the dish down and let him finish. (Do this just once per meal). Add kibbles to the dish while he is eating so he learns that the hand coming towards him is a good thing.**