

Dog Theft Prevention Advice (at home)



We are aware of the growing worries amongst the dog owning population at the moment regarding the alarming rate of theft of dogs and are here to help you!

Keep Your Dog Safe

Do not leave your dog unsupervised outside.



Secure your garden

Ensure your garden is secure to prevent any escapes.

Lock your garden gates to prevent unwanted access.



No advertising

Do not advertise the fact that you have dogs in your home (ie. avoid placing dog ownership placards or notices on your property).



Documentation

Keep all documentation relating to your dog(s) in a safe place. Include clear photos of front and side profiles of your dog. Make a note or take a photo of any unusual markings. This will help in the recovery of your dog in the unfortunate event that they go missing or are stolen.



Social Media

Beware of the information you are posting about your dog on social media. Thieves may be able to find out where you live and the places you frequent with your dog.



Your Dog

Consider having your dog spayed/neutered. Not only does this mean your dog will be less likely to stray, it may also prevent theft for breeding purposes.



Reputable Carers

Take care when choosing someone to care for your dog if you are going away from home or need a dog walker whilst you go to work. Use a reputable, licensed and insured company and check references for people who provide dog or house-sitting services.



Dog Theft Prevention Advice

(Public Areas)



We are aware of the growing worries amongst the dog owning population at the moment regarding the alarming rate of theft of dogs and are here to help you!

Keep Your Dog Safe

Do not leave your dog unattended whatsoever.



When Out Walking

Change your dog walking routines frequently.
If dogs are walked off the lead, ensure they stay near you and have good recall.
Walk in pairs/groups where possible (subject to Covid restrictions).
Ensure night time walks are in areas that are well lit.



Be Aware

Be aware of your surroundings and people that are present – are they acting suspiciously?



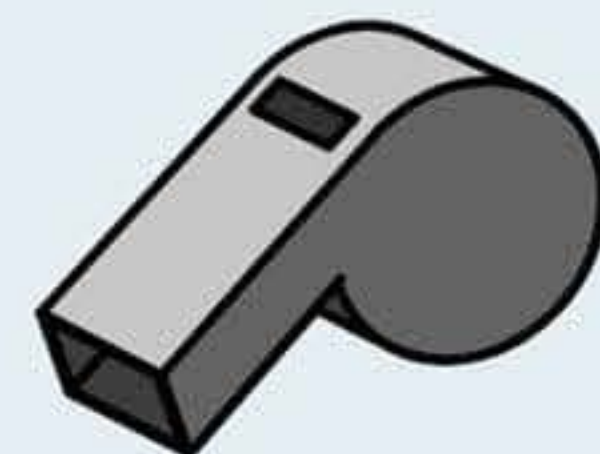
Stranger Danger

Beware of strangers who show interest in your dog. Don't give details about your dog and don't allow strangers to have their photograph taken with your dog..



Personal Protection

You could consider carrying a personal attack alarm or loud whistle – the sounding of this will draw attention to you and is likely to make the would be thief flee empty handed.



The Law

Under "Common Law 1967", a person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime (this includes Theft/Attempt Theft of your dog).



Your Dog

Your dog should always wear a collar and ID tag with YOUR name, address and telephone number on it. This is a legal requirement when your dog is in a public place.

Ensure your dogs microchip details are up-to-date.



Dog Theft Prevention Advice

(If the worst happens)



We are aware of the growing worries amongst the dog owning population at the moment regarding the alarming rate of theft of dogs and are here to help you!

Act Quickly

If your dog is lost or suspected stolen, it is important to act quickly.

If you see anything suspicious, please call 101 or in an emergency 999.



Report It!

If you believe your dog has been stolen, report it to the police and ask for a crime reference number. Report the loss to your local authority dog warden and those in all other neighbouring local authorities.

Make local animal shelters, rescue charities and vets aware of your loss.



Social Media

Post a photo of your dog on local social media groups giving details of where and when they went missing or were stolen, making sure your settings are public to reach as many people as possible.



Stranger Danger

Beware of strangers who show interest in your dog. Don't give details about your dog and don't allow strangers to have their photograph taken with your dog..



Report the loss/theft to the microchip database. This will ensure that if anyone tries to re-register the chip number, you will be informed.

Report the theft to missing/stolen animal websites such as DogLost, who help reunite missing pets with their owners by offering free advice and support.



Get Help!

Monitor websites and places where thieves may try to sell on your dog (pet shops, notice boards) and notify the police immediately if you come across anything.

Approach your local media who could help publicise your missing dog.



Witness

If you witnessed the theft, make a note of a description of the offender, including what they were wearing, any distinguishing features/piercings/tattoos and details of any vehicle used.

