狗主人越来越担心他们的狗被偷，所以我们敦促公众确保他们的狗是安全的，看得见的，可找到的。

**Keep them SECURE**
- 宠物可以很容易从花园中被盗，即使是在几分钟内。前花园非常脆弱。
- 确保您的花园边界可以防止您的狗逃脱或小偷从这里偷走。
- 作为锁，考虑安装警报铃或小型警报器以防止您的狗被偷。
- 考虑安装在室外犬舍上的铃或小型警报器，以警告您任何篡改。

**Keep them IN SIGHT**
- 从花园中未被照管的宠物，通常会吸引小偷。
- 在商店前面单独留下您的狗，即使是离开一分钟。
- 教您的狗召回。如果没有训练过，要非常小心地使用狗绳，特别是在不熟悉的地方。
- 您可以尝试使用延伸绳。

**Keep them SEARCHABLE**
- 确保您的狗是微芯片的，并且在任何已识别的宠物注册数据库中，您的信息是正确的。您的狗必须在八周大时植入微芯片。
- 为您的狗系上项圈 - 项圈上的标签应有您的联系号码和姓氏，而不是狗的名字。
- 为您拍摄您的狗从各个角度的照片，特别是任何独特的标记或特征。与您合影的狗可以证明所有权。
- 拍摄在各种条件下的狗的照片也可能有帮助，例如在修剪前和后。

**Never leave your dog unattended in a car** – especially on warm days. It’s not just dangerous for their health but allows them to be easily targeted by thieves.

**Leaving your dog alone outside a shop** is another easy opportunity for a thief, even if you are only away for a minute.

**Teach your dog recall.** If it’s not trained to do this, be very careful of allowing them off the lead, especially in unfamiliar areas. You could try an extending lead instead.

**Vary the times and routes you take when walking your dog.**

**Be careful of strangers asking a lot of questions when you are walking your dog –** they could be distracting you to make it easy to steal your dog.

**If you need to use a dog walking service or kennels, make sure you check references carefully to ensure the offer is genuine or the company is trusted.**

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Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349 www.ourwatch.org.uk
At present, dog theft is not defined as a specific crime, with dogs classed as ‘property’ under the Theft Act 1968. If caught, the penalty for stealing pets is generally a small fine or suspended sentence, with the Pet Theft Reform campaign reporting that in recent years only 1% of dog theft crimes have led to a prosecution. Currently many police forces are unable to distinguish between theft of a dog and theft of other property therefore the true extent of dog theft cannot be understood.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

- You can support petitions to make dog theft a specific criminal offence. To know what petitions are currently running visit: [https://petition.parliament.uk](https://petition.parliament.uk)

- You could write to your parliamentary representative lending your support and letting them know how they can help. The Kennel Club has a pet theft template letter to get you started. Visit: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/dog-thefts](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/dog-thefts)

- You could raise awareness about the issue by displaying our campaign poster in your community. By letting others know about the issue we have more opportunity to keep dogs safe across the country.

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**PROTECT your POOCH**

170%

**DOGLOST, A UK CHARITY THAT HELPS VICTIMS OF DOG THEFT**, recorded a 170% increase in the crime, from 172 dogs reported stolen in 2019 to 465 dogs in 2020.

According to a survey conducted by Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne in partnership with the Association of police and Crime Commissioners, PEOPLE (22% of the 124,729 people who responded) have had a dog stolen or knew someone who had over the last year.

79% of people said they had grown more fearful of taking their dog for a walk during the day and an even greater number, 83%, have grown more fearful of taking their dog for a walk at night.

**CAMPAIGNING FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAW**

**Watch our DOG THEFT WEBINAR**

Hosted by NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH with speakers from the Met Police and Crimestoppers, and special guest speakers Katy Bourne, PCC for Sussex and Dr Daniel Allen, founder of the Pet Theft Reform campaign. [ourwatch.org.uk/webinars](http://ourwatch.org.uk/webinars)

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349 [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)
IF THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS AND YOUR DOG IS STOLEN

There are a number of things you should do if your dog is stolen, all of which will increase your chances of recovering it:

1. **Contact the Police** and report your dog as stolen, providing as many descriptive details as you can. Make a note of the crime reference number.

2. **Contact your local council** to make them aware, as many still have dog warden services that encounter stray dogs.

3. **Contact the microchip database** holding your dog’s details and update them about the theft. Should the dog be recovered and checked, it will be possible to reunite you.

4. **There are many websites for missing animals**, so make sure you add details of your dog’s loss to these, using the photos you have taken. Include the crime reference number.

5. **Vets are also a good place to advertise** the loss of any dog, as well as local animal rescue centres.

6. **Noticeboards in local parks** may also allow you to place missing dog details.

BE AWARE OF SCAMMERS MASQUERADING AS PET THIEVES

Please be aware of scammers who see the missing dog posters and use this information to contact the owners and offer to return the dog for money - but never had the dog in the first place. Owners could be at risk of losing not only their pet but their money too.

If anyone demands money for the safe return of your pet contact the police.

IN ADDITION TO DOG THEFT, PUPPY SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL BREEDING THROUGH PUPPY FARMING IS ON THE RISE.

During the pandemic, demand for puppies has been so high that buyers are looking further afield for puppies and dogs, and sellers are willing to take more of a risk for more profits.

To find out more about puppy farming visit: [Crimestoppers Dog Theft page](https://www.crimestoppersuk.org/)

If you have information about those behind organised dog theft, puppy smuggling or illegal breeding and wish to remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers by phone on 0800 555 111 or [online](https://www.crimestoppersuk.org/) - you’ll stay 100% anonymous. Always.

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest crime prevention charity in England and Wales. There are many ways in which you can get involved with the movement, from joining a local scheme to supporting a national campaign or community project. Find out more: [ourwatch.org.uk](https://www.ourwatch.org.uk)
PROTECT YOUR POOCH

Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs SECURE, IN SIGHT and SEARCHABLE, and to help make pet theft a SPECIFIC OFFENCE.

Keep them:

1. **SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)

2. **IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)

3. **SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT A SPECIFIC OFFENCE

Find out more on all of the above and more at ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch