

Let's keep the

FAMILY

Pawtrait complete

A dog isn't just a pet, they're a big part of the family. But sadly around 2,000 dogs in the UK are stolen from their family each year.

So we're encouraging families across the nation to protect their pooch by following our handy tips.

Help us spread the word by sharing your #FamilyPawtrait on social media.

For more information on this issue, or to download free materials, visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk/dogtheft](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dogtheft)



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# HERE ARE OUR TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR DOG SAFE FROM THIEVES AS WELL AS WHAT TO DO SHOULD YOUR DOG GO MISSING 🐾

## Keep your dog:

### 🐾 Safe

- Ensure that your house and property boundaries are secure – keeping your dog in and intruders out.
- Fit garden gates with a sturdy lock to prevent trespassers gaining easy access to your property.
- Have your dog spayed/neutered to reduce their desire to stray and make them less desirable to thieves.
- Ensure your dog is wearing a tag with YOUR name, phone number and address on it.
- Ensure your dog is microchipped and that your contact details are kept up-to-date with your database provider.
- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme and make your community more secure by looking out for your neighbours.
- Be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

 **70%** OF REPORTED DOG THEFTS ARE FROM THE HOME OR GARDEN\*

\* Calculated from information provided by 37 police forces in response to Freedom of Information requests for 2017 data.

## ONLY ONE IN FIVE

INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE POLICE RESULT IN THE RECOVERY OF A DOG, SO LET'S KEEP THEM SAFE\*

### 🐾 Spottable

- Keep your dog in sight when they are in the garden and never leave them unsupervised.
- If you're exercising your dog off-lead, always keep them in sight and pay attention to what they are doing.
- Make sure your dog is trained to reliably respond to a recall command regardless of where they are.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a public place – even if it's just for a minute.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a car; not only is your dog at risk of being stolen but they can easily overheat.

### 🐾 Searchable

- Report the theft to the police, ensuring you get a crime reference number and insist that your dog is recorded as stolen and not missing.
- Report the theft of your dog to your local authority dog warden and notify your microchip database provider.
- Contact local animal centres, rescue charities, your local vet and any neighbouring practices so that they are aware of the incident and can keep an eye out for your dog.
- Always keep up-to-date photos of your dog, making sure that they clearly show any distinctive features your dog may have. These will aid your search well, should your dog go missing.

We hope these tips help to keep your dog safe, but if they do go missing it's crucial to act fast. Social media can play a huge role in the return of your pet, so we've created a helpful guide to searching for your dog through social platforms. Find it at [www.dogtrust.org.uk/dogtheft](http://www.dogtrust.org.uk/dogtheft)