



# Take The Lead

## Sue's Tips & Advice



### Things You Can Do To Prevent Your Dog Being Stolen

- Make sure your dog is microchipped and your current details are up to date on the database, especially if you move house.
- Take photographs of your dog from different angles including any distinguishing marks - scars, spots etc.
- Never leave your dog unattended in your garden and if its outside in a kennel make sure it is as close to the house as possible and consider CCTV.
- Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop or school or unattended in an unlocked vehicle.
- Make sure the garden is secure, after high winds check the fencing for damage in case your dog can escape or unwanted persons can access your property or entice your dog out.
- Make sure gates are locked and any outside doors are bolted on the inside both top and bottom. You could attach bells or alarms to alert you should they be opened.
- If you have a breed of dog sought after by thieves e.g., Gundogs consider having tinted windows in your vehicle.
- Try to avoid using the same route every time you walk; potential thieves will be monitoring your routine so mix it up a bit.
- Always have your dog in eyesight - be aware of who is around and if they are asking you about your dog - are they genuine? be aware of anyone trying to distract you. Consider attaching a GPS tracker to your dog's collar so you can track it if it runs away.
- Be careful on social media when posting about your dog, you may be giving away your location and you don't know who is looking. Also, the fb quizzes when they ask what's your dog's name? breed? Why do they want to know? They might be using these as a scam against you or assume they could be your password.
- A neutered dog is less attractive to be stolen because it can't be bred from, include 'neutered' on its collar tag rather than the dog's name.
- Advertising your dog with a sticker or sign on your gate or fence could be relevant.
- Keep all your dog's documents up to date and in one place.
- Breeders and sellers - If you have puppies for sale think carefully about where you advertise them. know who is coming to view - what's their intention? look them up on social media, they may come back later to steal.
- If your dog is stolen, inform your Vet straight away and your microchip company, put posters up and report on as many missing dog websites/fb pages as possible.
- Consider walking with a body camera.

*Sue*

Owner, *Take The Lead*