

# KEEPING YOUR DOGS SAFE

## At home

Don't leave your dog unattended in the garden, especially if you can't see it from the house

Ensure your garden is secure and lock gates. Fit a bell to the gate to alert you of someone entering your property

CCTV and doorbell cameras may help deter dog thieves



## Social media

Avoid putting too much information about your dog, such as where you live and work. Keep privacy settings in mind

If you're visiting a new place, wait until you're home to tag locations

When posting pictures, be sure to blur out any identification tags

Remain suspicious of strangers asking lots of questions online

## Out and about

Walk in pairs where possible and don't be distracted by your mobile phone

Keep to busy streets and parks

Beware of slow-moving vehicles taking an interest in your dog and strangers asking questions

Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop

Never leave your dog in the car - not only is the dog at risk of overheating, a thief can be in and out of a vehicle with your pet in very little time

Don't let your dog off the lead if you don't think it will come back - consider a pet GPS which attaches to its lead

## Other things to consider

Neutering: Many dogs are stolen for breeding purposes. Neutering your dog may deter these types of criminals and has a number of other health benefits as well as reducing the likelihood of roaming

If you breed puppies for sale, take great care when inviting people in to view; have someone else present, limit the numbers of people you allow in at a time and use one secure area

Discuss who would own the dog in the event of bereavement or break up and draw up documentation to this effect. Pets can become the centre of ownership disputes in these circumstances