



Preventing the Theft of Your Pets

The theft of a pet is a heartbreaking event. Once taken, these beloved family members may disappear forever. There are several precautions you can take to protect your pet from being stolen.

Make sure your pet wears a collar and identification at all times. Identification, rabies and license tags deter thieves by showing that your pet is not a stray. Ask the Humane Society/SPCA, the local animal control agency, or veterinarian if backup methods of identification (such as microchips) are available in your community.

Keep your pet on a leash. Whenever you take him on a walk or when your pet travels in a motor vehicle, keep him on a leash or place him in a carrier so he does not get loose. Many pets believed to have been stolen have actually just wandered off and gotten lost. When your pet strays from your protection, he becomes an easy target for pet thieves. You cannot assume that your pet will be able to find his way home.

Never leave your pet unattended. You should never leave your pet in a parked vehicle or tied outside a store while you run inside-even for a few minutes. It takes only seconds for a thief to steal your pet. Never leave your pet alone outside-even in a fenced yard.

Neuter or spay your pet. This will curb his or her desire to roam; this also will eliminate the incentive for people who steal animals for breeding.

Keep identifying information handy. This includes license information, a recent photograph, and an accurate written description. This will help authorities identify your pet if he becomes lost.

Report suspected incidents of pet theft. Report these incidences to your local animal control agency and local police to put them on the alert and help them establish patterns of pet theft.

Spread the word about the problem of pet theft. If you suspect pet theft is occurring in your area, start