

# Advice – Dog theft



## Help keep your dog **safe**:

- Make sure your dog is microchipped and your contact details are up-to-date
- Keep good quality and up-to-date images of your dog taken from different angles, noting any identifiable markings. Consider tattooing to aid visual identification. This helps us to return your dog safely
- Avoid leaving your dog alone in a garden which is not secure, or in an area where it can escape or make it easy for people to take it
- Consider adjusting the security in your garden by using things like gate alarms or additional lighting
- If you do not have a solid recall, use an extendable lead
- Vary your dog walking routes, try not to be a creature of habit
- Be careful of strangers asking questions about your dog. Be cautious and consider positioning yourself in front of your dog if you feel uncomfortable
- Avoid leaving your dog unattended outside a shop, for example, and never leave your dog locked alone in a car
- Check social media privacy settings and avoid advertising your dog and your location
- If you suspect your dog has been stolen, report it immediately. Notify your local dog warden, vets and your microchip provider
- Consider using a mobile phone location application, for example, What3Words and Hollie Guard to aid response

## If your dog is missing:

- Contact your local council dog warden in case the dog has been picked up as a stray.
- Check local vets, rescue centres and kennels to see if your dog has been handed in.
- Register your dog free of charge with **[www.doglost.co.uk](http://www.doglost.co.uk)**
- Take regular images of your dog from several angles so a missing poster can be distributed.



**Kent  
Police**

### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online **[www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)**  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **[www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)**  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**  
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

**[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)**   