

# PREVENTING DOG THEFT

## PROTECT YOUR DOG AGAINST THEFT



Notify the dog microchip database provider and report the theft to [www.doglost.co.uk](http://www.doglost.co.uk) or their Facebook page. They coordinate thefts for each county and offer advice and support. There is no single national missing animal database to report lost dogs so to ensure a widespread appeal, consider giving the same information to all of them. Remember to keep your microchip database provider up to date with your contact details.

Police do not take reports of lost or found dogs or those that have run off. These should be reported to the local authority and missing animal databases such as [www.doglost.co.uk](http://www.doglost.co.uk)

Our dogs are members of our families, and when a dog is stolen it is very distressing for both owner and pet. To try to reduce the risk of this happening follow the guidance and keep your dog safe.



Consider joining Essex Police's Dog Watch. For further information send an email to: [essex.watch.liaison.officers@essex.police.uk](mailto:essex.watch.liaison.officers@essex.police.uk) including details of your home district/area.

ESSEX POLICE  
**Dog Watch**



**DOG  
LOST**.co.uk



**ESSEX  
POLICE**  
Protecting and serving Essex

**Digital  
101**  
essex.police.uk

**CALL  
ESSEX  
POLICE**  
**101**  
IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999

## A MESSAGE FROM THE RURAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Everyone knows that a dog is a great family addition and everyone in Essex loves their dog. No-one should have to face the distress of losing their dog.

Incidents of dog theft in Essex are low and we want to keep it that way.

The Rural Engagement Team patrol rural area's and engage with local residents, businesses and users. We review every reported dog theft in Essex and pursue offenders.

If you think your dog has been stolen, or you have information regarding dog theft call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also report concerns and crime online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

Alternatively, you can give information to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Essex Police are working in collaboration with DogLost UK. DogLost are the UK's largest free lost and found dog service and have reunited more than 60,000 missing dogs with their owners.

For more information and advice visit [www.doglost.co.uk](http://www.doglost.co.uk).



- Avoid leaving dogs in the garden or outside kennels if you are not at home, and keep your dog in view whilst in the garden: don't leave him outside unsupervised.
- Never leave your dog secured alone outside a shop. This makes them vulnerable and a tempting target for opportunist thieves.
- Avoid leaving dogs in cars alone and **NEVER** leave a dog in a car on a warm/hot day.
- Your dog should be microchipped and registered with current information. Use a collar and dog tag displaying contact details (don't put your dog's name on the tag use your surname).
- Take plenty of good, clear photographs of your pet so that it can be easily identified. Take photographs of your dog from various angles and update them regularly (i.e. with groomed coats and when not recently groomed). Make a note of any distinguishing features. Also take lots of photographs of yourself with your dog, to help you to prove ownership if needed.
- Train your dog to come back when called and never let them off the lead if you are not sure they will come back to you. If in doubt, use an extending lead, especially if you are in an unfamiliar area where your dog may get easily lost.
- Be aware of and report all suspicious vehicles or people online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) or by calling 101. Ask your neighbours to do the same. There have been a few reports of dogs being called, and dog owners being distracted by someone, whilst the thieves try to take the dogs.

Don't buy any dogs from social media sites or any person where appropriate documentation (ownership etc, pedigree papers etc.) cannot be provided. This increases the demand for stolen pets. Report all suspicious dog sales to the police or Trading Standards.

Don't give details of your pets, your location or your regular walking locations out on your social media platforms.

Take care when choosing someone to care for your dog if you are going away from home or need a dog walker whilst you go to work. Use a reputable company or boarding kennels and check references for people who provide dog or house-sitting services.

If you breed puppies for sale, take details of anyone you are inviting in to view before they arrive: perhaps have a video chat? Try to have two people present from your home whilst viewing takes place and limit the numbers of people you allow in at a time. Show the puppies in one secure area, and limit access to other areas of your house or property.

**IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR DOG HAS BEEN STOLEN, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ACT QUICKLY.**

**If your dog is missing and you believe it has been stolen, report it to the police on 101 or report the crime online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk). Note the crime reference number provided, and also advise your local authority of the theft.**

**IF A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS, DON'T HESITATE, DIAL 999.**