

Fall 2014

The
**VIRGINIA
MARYLAND**

DOG

Volume 5 • Issue 3



**K9 Police Unsung
Heroes on the Beat**

Pet Theft on the Rise!

Heart Attacks in Pets?

Should Pet Owners
Raise Two Pups Together?

"Hope" is seeking her forever home through the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA.

(details on Page 46)

(rounding up rover)



Pet Theft is On the Rise! Rover Needs Protection

By Anne Wills

Photo courtesy Anne Wills

Little furry family members are often stolen right out from under us. Of course, this is despicable and very sad, and may make pet owners wonder where the humanity is in such a horrible act.

Dogs Finding Dogs (DFD), a Baltimore-based search-and-rescue charity, undertakes about 400 missing dog cases every year. Sixty-two percent of those missing-dog cases involve stolen dogs.

The American Kennel Club, which maintains a national database of dog thefts, says the organization sees a nationwide trend. The organization reports that the number of reported thefts more than doubled between 2011 and 2013.

"And those numbers are just scratching the surface," says Lisa Peterson, an AKC spokesman. DFD is successful in returning most of these pets back home safe and sound, but it takes hard detective work.

What Causes This?

The economy is the main factor. It is easier to steal a dog from a yard or car and wait for a reward to be posted than go to work. Pets are stolen to give as gifts. Drug money, theft to breed a dog, and the worst case scenario—to fight the dogs and use them as bait—are other reasons.

What is the Answer?

Pet owners need to step up their actions to prevent dog thefts. If pet owners stop and think whether they would, for example, let a 3-year-old toddler out in the yard alone, or in the car by himself, they would quickly take the extra time and effort to make sure that Rover is safe.

Pet owners sometimes think that when it's raining, they will let the dog out in the yard, instead of walking their pet. Or, they think they'll just leave the dog in the car during a quick run into a store. Or, they think that their dog never goes out of the front yard, even if there is no fence. These scenarios may sound startlingly familiar to pet owners.

There are also unusual scenarios. There were contractors working at the house, strangers in the neighborhood selling magazines. I didn't check to see if the gate was locked and Rover was intercepted by someone who won't give him back.

Pet owners need to watch their pets while they are outside at all times. Make sure gates are padlocked. Fix all holes in fences. Diligence with pets' safety is lacking in almost every household. All neighborhoods, at every economic level, are affected.

Clues to Look For:

Pet thieves will case a house, looking to see when a dog is in the yard. Food is tossed over the fence so the pet will see the thieves as friendly. When this occurs, it is now easier to put a leash on them. Pet owners should conduct a visual check of their yard when they let pets outside.

Most of time the person who has stolen your pet knows who you are. It's a neighbor, one of your kids friends, an ex-partner. Be suspicious of everyone. The thieves will try to gain a pet owner's trust, but at the same time, they will concoct their plan on how to take a pet.

What Else Can Pet Owners Do?

1. Call Dogs Finding Dogs at (410) 908-6374.
2. Do a Findtoto.com phone call alert.
3. Post your pet on Craigslist and Facebook.
4. Hang fliers.
5. Call the shelters.
6. Call your microchip company.
7. Notify veterinarians.
8. Keep all phone numbers and e-mails so they can be reversed. 🐾

For more information:

Anne Wills
Dogs Finding Dogs
410.908.6374

www.dogsfindingdogs.com

Helping Dogs

HELPING RESCUES ADJUST
RESOLVING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS
OVERCOMING TIMIDITY & FEAR
ENHANCING YOUR RELATIONSHIP
FACILITATING END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS

Animal Therapist & Animal Whisperer
Christina Montana
540-659-6382

www.bigskyspirit.com



Good news!
PAWiER® is Back!

PROMISE YOUR PETS "DAILY" HEALTH & WELLNESS FROM A TO U! Amazing results: Allergies • Arthritis • Appetite loss • Behavior Disorders • Black Skin Disease • Ear infections • Eye Leaking & Staining • Flaking Skin Furballs • Hot Spots • Itching • Odor • Stress Shedding • Urinary Tract Issues & More!

See incredible pics on our website.

Exclusively available through GET SERIOUS!® Products

GET SERIOUS! PAWiER.com

Handcrafted
All-Natural
★
USA Made
est. 2005

**Ma
snax**
superior treats



enter code VAMD14 for 15% off!

masnax.com