

Puppy Love

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A Thief Can Steal More Than You Think!

Pet theft is consistently on the rise and the thought of someone stealing your baby is unimaginable, but it happens every day. Listed below are five tips to help keep your little doxie safe:

- **Keep your dog close.** Keep your dog on a leash during walks so he can't wander off and attract attention.
- **Never leave your dog unattended in your yard.** If your dog is visible from the street he becomes an easy target.
- **Be cautious sharing information with strangers.** Don't reveal how much your dog cost or where you live.
- **Don't tie your dog outside a store.** This scenario is a recipe for disaster.
- **Protect your dog with microchip identification.** A collar and tag are a must, but always add a microchip.



Lexi is at home with her wonderful family in Illinois. She has reportedly learned how to ring a bell when she needs to potty, and has a 99% success rate!!



Facts About the Microchip

Your doxie's microchip should always be implanted by a veterinarian. The chip is a glass cylinder about the size of a grain of rice that contains a radio transmitter and an electrical device containing your dog's ID number that is matched with your contact information. One study showed that lost dogs without a chip have recovery rate of one in five. The same study revealed that dogs with a chip are reunited with their family over 51% of the time. However, a chip is not risk free: some dogs will develop an infection or abscess, some even develop a tumor. Ask your veterinarian what chip service he recommends.



Typically we think a microchip is the way to track down a lost dog, but they can also be used as evidence in pet-theft cases. That was exactly what happened to Robert Lucier, whose little white dog Waffles, was stolen while tied up outside a grocery store near his home. Several people reported seeing Waffles with a homeless woman, but the most telltale sign was when someone spotted the woman washing black paint out of a dog's coat in a public bathroom. Lucier tracked the woman down and wrestled a black coated Waffles away from her while the police intervened. While the two were arguing about whose dog it was, a veterinarian was able to scan Waffles' microchip, which confirmed the dog was Waffles.

As reported by: KIRO 7, Seattle, Washington