

**SCAM
ALERT!**



There are a lot of opportunists out there who are more than happy to take advantage of dog owners. Always be cautious of strangers asking about your dog, scammers masquerading as thieves or fake animal control officers

Advice for dealing with potential dog scammers:

- **Be aware of scammers masquerading as pet thieves**

Please be aware of scammers who see the missing dog posters and use this information to contact the owners and offer to return the dog for money - but of course they never had the dog in the first place and the owners are at risk of losing not only their pet but their money too. If anyone demands money for the safe return of your pet contact the police.

- **Dog leasing**

You never actually own the dog unless you pay a final fee (Like a car lease), and it is taken if you miss a payment.

- **Social media stalkers**

details posted about dogs, walks etc. and watched by stalker with a view to stealing. Be careful what you post.

- **Fake animal control officers**

Uniformed individuals with ID who knock on your door and impose a large on the spot fine, or may try to seize the dog.

- **Taken for ransom**

Pay or the dog dies threat.

- **Fake charity collection**

People who say they are from a dog charity. They try to gain money or information about the dog.

- **Dog whistling**

The nappers walk down streets with dog whistles to see where they are with a view to stealing later.

- **Ask too many questions.**

These people try to gain information about the pet to ascertain whether it is worth stealing, or to create a distraction to steal the dog.

- **Fake charity collection**

People who say they are from a dog charity. They try to gain money or information about the dog.

For more information on dog scamming, please visit www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/dogs