



A campaign to stop the violence
for our children and companion animals



PET CARETAKERS AND OWNERS: BEWARE OF PET THEFT

It's happening all over, including Chicago. Stolen pets may be used in horrible, unimaginable ways. Criminals use them as "bait" to train dogs to fight each other, for "live practice", for violent "thrills" or for forced breeding.* Some stolen pets are sold to someone looking for a "deal" on a valuable pet. They may even be sold for "research" by unscrupulous dealers.

You can protect your pets from theft by following these rules:

- **NEVER** leave a pet tied outside a store, even if you think you "have your eye" on him/her. It takes only seconds to grab a pet whose leash is tied to a pole or fence. (It's also illegal.)
- **DO NOT** leave your pet alone in your car, **EVEN** if it is locked. Pets have disappeared from cars and never been found. Car windows have been broken to grab unattended pets. Your pet can also get sick or die from inadequate air or temperature – dogs are especially vulnerable.
- **DO NOT** leave your pet alone in a back yard. Even if you have locks on your gate or a high fence, it is still possible for someone to steal your pet — and it's been done.
- **NEVER** allow your pets (cats or dogs) to roam streets and alleys unattended. **ALWAYS** keep your dog on a leash in your hand in a public area. It's easy for someone to jump out of a car and grab your off-leash pet. Leashing your dog is also the law. It helps protect your dog, other people and other dogs; and it reduces your liability in case of problems.
- **ALWAYS** ensure that your child is accompanied by a trusted adult when walking your dog.
- **ALWAYS** leave your pet in the care of someone who is as careful about your pet's welfare as you would be. Insist they abide by all of these rules.
- **ALWAYS** report pet theft to police: call 311 to file a police report or 911 if it's in progress.

HOW DOES THIS HELP STOP DOG FIGHTING?

* Dog fighting is a despicable, criminal practice found in every police district, including yours! To train their dogs to be vicious killers, the perpetrators use other living and dead animals (usually small dogs or cats) as bait. Larger dogs are used for "live practice." Methods used to "train" these dogs are unconscionable. Still other dogs are used for breeding and, when no longer useful, they, too, may die an unspeakable death. Worst of all, most of these unfortunate animals are someone's cherished pets. *What can you do?*

If you see a dog fight in progress or an animal being treated cruelly, call 911.

If you suspect animal abuse or animal fighting or have information, call 311.

If you want to get involved in other ways, contact us!

*Have your pets **spayed or neutered** to protect their health & safety and to help ensure no more homeless pets.*

*Have them **microchipped** to aid in their return to you in case of emergency or mishap.*

***License** your pet to ensure that s/he can readily be returned and that you are counted in public policy debates.*