

HD Dog, TV snatched

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Dog, TV snatched

on first date

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A US woman has been reunited with her yorkshire terrier and flat- screen TV that were snatched during her first date with a man she met online. The woman called New Jersey police early on Saturday to say her dog, Violet, had been tied by its leash

to the TV, and both were left in the front yard of her Dover home, the Daily Record of Parsippany reported. Violet appeared to be in good health. Authorities say the pair met on a dating **site** and went out for the first time Thursday night. After

returning home, the woman said she became occupied in another room, leaving the man alone. When she returned, he was gone - and so were her dog, valued at \$US4000 (\$4280), and her TV, worth about \$US3000.

Pain threshold

'decided by genes'

FOUR genes may help decide a person's pain threshold, research has shown. Scientists studied the genes COMT, DRD2, DRD1, and OPRK1, in 2721 people diagnosed with chronic pain. Participants rated their perception of pain as "low", "moderate" or

"high" on a scale from one to 10. One gene, DRD1, was 33 per cent more prevalent in the low pain **group** than in the high pain **group**, the researchers found. DRD2 was 25 per cent more common among those with high pain than those with moderate

pain."Our study is quite significant because it provides an objective way to understand pain and why different individuals have different pain tolerance levels," said study leader Dr Tobore Onojjighofia, from the US pain management **company** Proove

Biosciences. "Identifying whether a person has these four genes could help doctors better understand a patient's perception of pain."

Cuba sells condoms

after expiration date

HOPING to resolve a shortage of condoms that has sparked complaints across Cuba, the **island's** public health system has approved the **sale** of more than one million prophylactics with apparently expired dates. Pharmacy sales personnel must explain

to the buyers that the condoms are good and simply have the wrong expiration dates, said a report on Saturday in Vanguardia, the newspaper of the Communist Party in the central province of Villa Clara. A Vanguardia report on April 3 said that the

government agency in charge of certifying medical items in 2012 had noticed erroneous expiration dates on the 'Moments' prophylactics imported from **China**.

Teen survives

stowaway flight

THE FBI says a 16-year-old boy stowed away in the wheel well of a flight from California to Hawaii, surviving the trip halfway across the Pacific Ocean unharmed despite frigid temperatures at 38,000 feet and a lack of oxygen. An FBI spokesman

said the boy was questioned by the FBI after being discovered on the tarmac at the Maui airport with no identification. He said the child had run away from his family. He said the boy would not be charged and was referred to child protective

services.

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