

Dog Theft Statistics: Five Dogs Stolen Every Day, New Research Reveals

BY JASMINE KLEINE / UPDATED MAY 9, 2019

Five dogs are stolen across the UK every day, with sadly on 17% of dogs being reunited with their owners.

The research, which has been compiled by Direct Line Pet Insurance based on information provided by 39 police forces reveals the number of dogs reported stolen has risen for the fourth consecutive year.



The Most Targeted Dog Breeds by Thieves

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was the most targeted breed by criminals in 2018, with 88 reported thefts over the year. Crossbreeds remain the second most popular for dognappers. There were 53 reported cases of stolen cross breeds in 2018, likely to be due to the popularity of 'designer' dog breeds like Labradoodles and Puggles.

Rank	Breed	2017 reported thefts	2018 reported thefts	Percentage change
1	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	172	88	-49%
2	Crossbreed	73	53	-27%
3	Chihuahua	44	52	+18%
4	French Bulldog	45	51	+13%
5	Jack Russell	34	39	+15%
6	Pug	4	24	+500%
7	English Bulldog	3	22	+633%
8	Cocker Spaniel	20	14	-30%
9	Labrador	35	12	-66%
10	Terrier	4	11	+175%
All breeds		1,879	1,959	+3%*

Source: Direct Line Pet Insurance 2019 *Increase is despite fewer police forces responding to a request for information.

Chihuahuas have now overtaken the French Bulldog as the third most stolen breed, with 52 Chihuahuas reported stolen in 2018, an 18 per cent increase from 2017 (44 cases). 51 French Bulldogs were reported stolen last year, a 13 per cent increase from 2017 and making it the fourth most-stolen breed.

There has also been a rise in the number of Jack Russell Terriers (up 15 per cent) and Pugs (up 600 per cent) stolen.

Pugs have gone from the 11th most stolen breed, with four cases in 2017, to fifth most stolen in 2018. Flat faced dog breeds like Pugs and French Bulldogs have become increasingly popular due to the number of celebrities who own them, such as Hugh Jackman, Reese Witherspoon and David Beckham while owners of Pugs include Gerard Butler, Hugh Laurie and Paris Hilton.

Dog Breeds on the Decline

Breeds that have fallen in popularity amongst thieves include Huskies, which have seen an 88 per cent reduction in the number of reported thefts over 12 months. Huskies have gone from one of the ten most commonly stolen breeds in 2017 with 16 cases reported, to just two in 2018. The number of Rottweilers and Springer Spaniels reported stolen has also decreased, with just five and one reported theft respectively.



Eva Sandstra-Bennett, Head of Pet Insurance at Direct Line, said: "It is heart-breaking to see there are still so many dogs stolen each year and the numbers are continuing to rise. Dogs are a huge part of the family, so it causes real distress and trauma when they are stolen. Unfortunately, the popularity of designer dog breeds and flat faced dogs means they are highly desirable for thieves, as they are easily identifiable and can be sold on for thousands of pounds. Owners of these breeds should be particularly vigilant and aware of situations that make it easier for thieves. This can include leaving them locked in cars, tied up outside a shop or allowing them off the lead out of sight."

Regions at Risk

The Metropolitan Police Service reported the greatest number of dogs stolen, at 304 in 2018, a 30 per cent increase compared to 2017 (234). West Yorkshire Police reported the second greatest number of stolen dogs last year, at 179, although this number has fallen by 19 per cent compared to 2017 (220).

Rank	Police force	2017 reported thefts	2018 reported thefts	Percentage change
1	Metropolitan Police Service	234	304	+30%
2	West Yorkshire Police	220	179	-19%
3	Greater Manchester Police	156	161	+3%
4	Humberside Police	55	147	+167%
5	Lancashire Constabulary	93	106	+14%
6	Kent Police	135	104	-23%
7	South Yorkshire Police	103	91	-12%
8	Thames Valley Police	72	85	+18%
9	Devon and Cornwall Police	95	71	-25%
10	Staffordshire Police	53	71	+34%

Source: Direct Line Pet Insurance 2019

Greater Manchester Police completes the top three and received 161 reports of dogs stolen in 2018, a three per cent rise compared to 2017 (156). The Police Force which has reported the greatest increase in reports of stolen dogs is Humberside Police, which recorded 92 more dogs stolen in 2018 compared to 2017, a 167 per cent increase.

At the other end of the scale, Cheshire Constabulary received just two reports of stolen dogs last year. Norfolk received the second lowest number, at just seven reports, an 85 per cent reduction compared to 2017, when 48 dogs were reported stolen in the county. Both Bedfordshire and Warwickshire received eight reports of stolen dogs in 2018.

Eva Sandstra-Bennett continued, "Unfortunately, while the number of dogs stolen is rising, the number returned is also falling; meaning owners are increasingly unlikely to be reunited with their beloved pet. If the worst does happen and a dog is stolen, owners should report it to the police immediately and start spreading the word among their local community. Online communities are also vital, as is sharing photos of the pet on social media. Owners should also ensure that their pet is microchipped, and the contact details are up to date so if they are taken to a vet's surgery, the vet will have the right ownership details."

What to Do If Your Dog Is Stolen

Firstly, check the local area and your dog's favourite spots as your dog may have wandered off.

Make your dog 'too hot to handle' by sharing on social media, putting up posters in the local area and informing local media – include pictures and any distinctive marks in any appeals, and ask others to spread the word.

There are some specific sites set up to help find lost and stolen dogs, like doglost.co.uk.

Report your dog as stolen to the police and provide them with as much detail as possible.

Report your dog as stolen to local pet related services like vets, animal shelters, pet shops, dog wardens and the council. Provide photos, a physical description and the dog's microchip number.

Report your dog to the microchip database.

Get Our BEST Content

Enter your email and **never miss out** on receiving our best articles:

Your email *

Your Dog's Age

Breed

SUBSCRIBE »

People Are Also Reading



For the First Time in Six Years, Dog Thefts Seem to Be on the Decline - But Dogs ARE Still Being Stolen



Five Dogs Stolen Every Day as Thieves Target Designer Dogs



Warning: Is Your Dog at Risk of Getting You Hacked?

Book a beach getaway

Ad Vrbo

Dog Wall of Shame

dogmagazine.net

If Your Dog Has THIS Name... Beware! (& it's a popular name too!)

dogmagazine.net

Meet Our New Old Texan With His Rescue D

dogmagazine.net

Do NOT Allow Dogs To Fetch Sticks (Here's Why)

dogmagazine.net

Make Ugly Faces at Dogs, Go Straight to Jail!

dogmagazine.net

Stem Cell Treatment for Degenerative Myelopathy (Before & After)

dogmagazine.net

Why Are People Brindle Dogs'

dogmagazine.net

dog theft rise

dog theft statistics

Share This



Leave a Reply

Name *

Email *

Add Comment

☐ Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

Post Comment

Trending now ↗



Chinese Embassy Refuses to Accept Petition With 11 Million Signatures to #StopYulin

A Dog Owner's Review: The Gtech AirRam K9

Dog Dies on Christmas Day From Supermarket Bone

Would You Like to Win £50 of Vouchers, Thanks to Your Pet?

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [LEGAL & PRIVACY](#) [CONTACT](#)

Dog Magazine © Total Publishing