

Latest News from Kent County Council Public Protection.

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11 March 2021

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Increase of dog thefts in Kent

There are reports from Kent Police on the increase of dog theft or attempted thefts in Kent over the past week.

Cases have increased by 33% in the South East since 2018 - with 163 incidents reported within the last year. Demand for dogs have skyrocketed in lockdown and prices have soared as a result.

Organised crime is exploiting this situation by smuggling puppies from abroad and stealing dogs across the UK. Dog thefts are now at an all-time high, with puppies stolen for an immediate resale and adult dogs being taken for forced breeding on puppy farms.

**What to do:**

Keep your dogs safe by following these simple steps:

- **Safe** - secure your property and garden.
- **Spottable** - Keep your dogs in sight and train them to return to you.
- **Searchable** - Know what steps to take if they go missing.

Read more from [Dogs Trust](#) on keeping your pet safe.

Report any information about a stolen dog or suspicious behaviour to [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111 or call the Police on 101.

Please warn family members, friends and neighbours.

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Scams and Guidance

Find out about how scammers may be trying to target you and your family during the Coronavirus pandemic. We can all be vulnerable to these criminals and the best way to protect yourself is to make sure you are aware. KCC Public protection have created a page that lists scams that are using the Pandemic to target you.

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Contact Details



For advice and to report issues to **KCC Trading Standards** contact

[Citizens Advice consumer helpline](#) on **0808 223 1133**

[Consumer Advice scams action line](#) on **0808 250 5050**

Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

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