

February 2021



Most of us can agree that our pets are part of our family! But did you know that approximately 2 million pets are stolen in the US each year? Below are some ways to keep your pet out of harm's way!

February 14th is National Pet Theft Awareness Day. This day was created in 1988 by an organization called "Last Chance for Animals," and is meant to highlight the unfortunate increasing trend in animal thefts.

Just as small children need to be supervised outside, your pets need to be supervised as well! Leaving your pet chained outside most of the day unobserved can give anyone plenty of time to sneak off with your pet! Furthermore, if you are taking your pet on walks (especially in more urban areas), make sure that you keep a close eye on your pet – it only takes a few seconds for you to lose track of them!

Another very important way you can protect your pet is by microchipping! A microchip is a permanent form of identification for your pet, unlike collars or nametags, which can be easily removed. This is the best way for you and your pet to be reunited!

Spaying or neutering your cat or dog is another way to help keep them safe. Many times, pets are stolen with the intention that they become breeding animals. Having your pet spayed or neutered can therefore make your pet "less desirable" to thieves. Furthermore, spaying and neutering prevents your pet from wandering away from home as often, which will decrease the chances of him/her running away from home and getting lost.

There are several things you can do if your pet becomes lost or stolen. Calling local animal shelters and vet clinics is one way to spread the word that your pet is lost. If you have reason to believe that your pet may have been stolen, file a report with your local police station. Make sure that you have recent photos of your pets as well, so that they can be described and identified as accurately as possible. Finally, posting fliers around your neighborhood will allow more people in your area to keep an eye out for your pet.



No one wants their pet to be taken from them. By keeping your pet indoors when you leave the house, letting them outside under close supervision, and getting your pet microchipped, you help to keep your pet as safe as possible and out of harm's way!

Best regards,
Rachel Rielinger, DVM



**Animal Hospital
of Meadville**

**10696 Mercer Pike
Meadville, PA 16335
(814)333-1313**