D.A.W.G.™
DOG ADVISORY WORK GROUP

Pet Guardians and Owners:

BEWARE OF PET THEFT

It's happening all over the U.S., including Chicago. Stolen pets are known to be used in horrible, unimaginable ways. They may be used as "bait" to train fighting dogs, for "live practice", for violent "thrills" or even for breeding.* They may be 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 your pet tied outside a store, even if you think you "have your eye" on him/her. It takes about ten 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 susceptible.
- **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 pet on a leash in your hand in a public area. It's the law. It's also easy for someone to jump out of a car and grab your off-leash pet – it's been done. Leashing your dog protects 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 the police: call 311 to file a police report or 911 if it's in progress.

Help Stop Dog Fighting!

* Dog fighting is a despicable, illegal practice found in every police district, including yours! To train the fighting 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 or cruel treatment of an animal in progress, 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 reduce animal overpopulation.*
*Have them **microchipped** to aid in their return to you in case of emergency or mishap.*
***License** your dog, not just because it's the law but also to ensure your voice is heard in public policy decisions.*

D.A.W.G. • P.O. BOX 14601 • CHICAGO IL 60614-0601 • 312-409-2169 • WWW.DAWGSITE.ORG