

BASC dog owner survey - Results

The BASC dog owner survey took place between 7-12 April 2021. It was publicised on the BASC website, via social media and within the BASC newsletter. It was free for all UK dog owners to respond. In total there were 3,409 responses.

KEY MESSAGES

- 75% of dog owners have taken additional actions to protect their dogs from theft over the last 12 months.
- 96% of dog owners are extremely or very aware of the risk of dog theft since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown. In addition, nearly 80% of dog owners are aware of a local dog theft in the last 12 months.
- Of those who have taken additional action in the last 12 months, 5% are carrying varying personal protection devices, such as alarms and body cameras.
- There is an overriding sense (81%) that the police do not have enough or the correct resources to tackle dog theft.
- From those who responded saying they have been victim of dog theft; the same number of dogs were stolen in the last two years (31) then from the previous decade.
- Of all 111 responses stating they had been victim of dog theft, there has to date only been 1 successful conviction.

INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

Have you taken additional action over the past 12 months to reduce the risk of theft of your dogs? (Number of responses – 3,397)

Yes – 75%

No – 25%

Of those:

60% are varying the times and places they dog walk.

49% have reduced posting on social media.

41% have added security lighting.

36% have added security cameras.

25% have increased fencing around garden.

24% have added new locks.

12% moved dogs indoors.

9% have joined a local neighbourhood watch group.

9% formed dog walking parties.

2% have moved kennel.

29% replied 'other'.

Individual responses included: keeping dogs on leads, carrying personal protection such as alarms, locking garden gate, and using body cameras.

Are you more aware of the risk of dog theft since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown? (Number of responses – 3,342)

Extremely Aware – 79%

Very Aware – 18%

Somewhat aware – 3%

Not so aware – 0%

Not at all aware – 0%

Are you concerned about the risk of dog theft when exercising your dogs? (Number of responses – 3,339)

- Always – 58%
- Usually – 11%
- Sometimes – 18%
- Rarely – 10%
- Never – 3%

Have you ever had a dog stolen? (Number of responses – 3,346)

- Yes – 111
- No – 3,235

For those who answered yes:

In what decade was your dog(s) stolen? (Number of responses – 99)

- 1950 – 1
- 1970 – 1
- 1980 – 3
- 1990 – 11
- 2000 – 21
- 2010 – 31
- 2020 – 31

Were you reunited with your dog(s)? (Number of responses – 101)

- Yes – 45
- No – 47
- Other - 9

Was there a conviction? (Number of responses – 102)

- Yes – 1
- No – 90
- Other – 11
- Other included cases that were still ongoing

Are you aware of any dog thefts in your local area over the last 12 months? (Number of responses – 3,294)

- Yes – 79%
- No – 21%

Do you feel the police have enough resources to deal with dog theft? (Number of responses – 3,297)

- Yes – 3%
- No – 81%
- Don't know – 17%

What further resources would you like to see the police have to deal with dog theft? (Number of responses – 2,564)

Top responses included:

- More police powers.
- Make dog theft a specific offence, with increased sentencing.
- Return of dog wardens in heavily walked areas.
- Specific taskforce to deal with dog theft.
- Creating a centralised stolen database.
- Quicker response time from the police.
- Better liaison between forces.

Creation of a national stolen dog database.