



Burglars beware



PET CARE INFORMATION
& ADVISORY SERVICE

THE watchful eyes of our four legged friends are a key deterrent to burglars according to the latest research from the Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS).

“With statistics showing that someone in Australia is burgled just about every minute, the vast majority (88 per cent) of dog owners say that having a dog around the house deters burglars, and they report that this is primarily about the dog’s ability to monitor and alert neighbours if an intruder enters the property,” said Susie Willis from PIAS. And it seems that leading insurers agree with these findings.

According to Paul Northey, general manager RACV Insurance, “Thieves are opportunistic and generally look for ‘soft targets’, such as those homes where they can get in and out quickly without being seen or heard. Anything that makes this more difficult, whether that be a monitored alarm, well secured doors and windows, or a dog that will speak up when it sees anything unusual is a good thing.”

Research from the University of Western Australia shows that dog ownership does contribute to a broader feeling of safety within the community.

“The perception of safety is one of the key measures of community well-being and it is clear from the UWA research that the presence of dogs in a community contributes to feelings of safety,” said Ms Willis.

Dr Lisa Wood, from the School of Population Health at the University of Western Australia, found that people

out walking dogs increased social interaction within the community and made the community as a whole feel safer.

“This isn’t about guard dogs and fences; it is about people recognising a neighbour who they see out walking their dog or people stopping to chat to a dog owner. It is also about the feeling of personal safety that dog owners have, with the research showing that 83 per cent of dog owners say they feel safer in their homes because they own a dog,” said Ms Willis.

“Dogs may well be an effective deterrent to burglars, but it is clear that they also bring a range of benefits to their owners and the broader community.”

THIS week the appropriately-named kelpie cross “Bouncer” is looking for a new home.

At one year old, this energetic and enthusiastic black kelpie will need plenty of exercise to keep him happy, and regular brushes will keep his coat looking good, although this

particular dog breed doesn’t shed much.

Ideally suited to a large yard or a farm, “Bouncer” is good with most other dogs and is suitable for primary-aged children and older.

If kept in a yard, he will need high, secure fencing to contain him and his boundless energy. He will also require long, regular walks, but will be able to keep up with joggers or runners, too.

Bred as working dogs, kelpies are full of energy and require regular exercise, but when well trained can be a very loyal and useful dog.

This friendly dog will quickly warm to new owners who can help him get plenty of exercise and activity.

If you think you can offer Bouncer a good home, call into the Darts Rd animal shelter, which is open from Monday to Saturday between 10am and 3.30pm, and on Sunday from 10am to 12.30pm. Alternatively, call the shelter on 5523 4690.

The Portland RSPCA is in constant need of old blankets for bedding, pet toys and scratching posts for cats.

If you are able to help please drop your donations off at the Daly’s Supa IGA Supermarket or take them out to the shelter. All donations are greatly appreciated. 110629JN11



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A DOG that will speak up when it sees anything unusual is a good deterrent to burglars - even if it is only a small dog.

Picture: PIAS

