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Dogs will help deter burglars: home insurer

DOGS are being touted by insurers as a way for home owners to avoid being burgled.

SGIO spokesman Andrew Tubb said thieves generally looked for "soft targets", homes where they could get in and out quickly without being seen or heard.

"Anything that makes this more difficult, whether that be an alarm, secured doors and windows or a dog that will bark if it sees anything unusual is a good thing," he said.

University of WA school of population health associate professor Lisa Wood said 83 per cent of dog owners said they felt safer in their home because they owned a dog.

"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," she said.