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# Mighty Max sees off intruder

**Kelly Ryan**

MAX is a real-life canine crim catcher.

Normally a couch potato, the burly labrador bounded into his backyard to confront a stranger who terrified his owner by appearing at the back door when she was home alone.

With his bark, Max sent the would-be burglar packing. Police quickly caught the intruder, who

had held up a convenience store at knife point.

Owner Linda said Max would put off any thief. "I wouldn't enter my home if big black Max was making his booming bark," she said.

Susie Willis, from Petcare Information and Advisory Service, said an Australian was burgled every minute. "Most (88 per cent) dog owners say having a dog

around the house deters burglars," she said.

"And they report that this is primarily about the dog's ability to monitor and alert neighbours if an intruder enters the property."

University of Western Australia researcher Dr Lisa Wood found people who walk dogs increase social interaction and

make people 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," Dr Wood said.

A CGU Insurance spokesman said a dog could deter thieves.



**Top dog:** Max rushed to the aid of his owner when she was confronted by an intruder. Picture: BEN SWINNERTON