

Ramapo Kennel Club GROWL

JANUARY 2010

1958-2009

Pet Thefts Increase in 2009

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Next Meeting
January 13, 2010

**American Kennel Club
Cautions Owners as Pet
Thefts Continue to Rise;
State Lawmakers Consider
Making 'Dog-Napping' a
Serious Crime**

*— AKC Appearance on
ABC's Good Morning
America Highlights
Prevalence of Trend and
Reminds Owners to Keep
Pets Safe —*

The American Kennel Club® continues to remind pet owners to heed warnings about an alarming rise in "dog-nappings." State houses

across America have taken notice and are proposing laws to toughen penalties for those who steal pets.

Since last year, when AKC® first noted concerns about the prevalence of pet theft, more dogs are disappearing. Through November 30, 2009, the AKC has tracked more than 115 missing pets via incidents reported by news media and customer reports. In 2008, the AKC tracked a total of 71 thefts.

The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which tracks stolen property nationwide, currently lists 200 stolen dogs, according to Steve Fischer, FBI Spokesperson. According to Fischer, "Dogs listed in our database must have permanent owner-applied serial numbers, such as those from embedded microchips. Unfortunately not all dogs have permanent ID, so we know this is only a fraction of the number of missing dogs."

"Each week I am reading about reports of pet theft from all around the country,"

said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Some owners, desperate to find their beloved pets have contacted us, wanting to know what they can do to help get their 'family' members back. It's not just about the financial value of the dog for any of these people. It's an emotional attachment that can't be replaced by getting another dog."

Julie Austin of Idaho told Local News 8 that she was shocked when her 11-week-old puppy was stolen right out of the arms of her 5-year-old daughter while she was sitting in a public park. The Austins filed a stolen pet report with the local police. Fortunately, after they alerted the media and the police received a tip about their pet's whereabouts their puppy was recovered living at someone else's home. The alleged thief was recently charged with a misdemeanor possession of stolen property.

As a majority of owners view their dogs as valued family

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members, the value of pets in people's lives are being recognized by legislators across America. Recently in New York, following the disappearance of a Siberian Husky in his Brooklyn district, New York Assemblyman Joseph Lentol vowed to introduce dog-napping legislation which would make the theft of a companion animal a felony offense with up to four years in jail depending on the circumstances.

Earlier this year, a bill was introduced in Texas which would have made it a state felony to steal a pet, including the family dog, with a possible two years in prison if convicted. California and Delaware have tried to regulate roadside pet sales as a way to combat the trafficking of stolen pets to unsuspecting consumers.

Regardless of the reason thieves are taking pets, whether to sell to unsuspecting local buyers or over the Internet or keeping them for personal use, these criminals need to know that pet owners are becoming more proactive by keeping pets close to them and also microchipping their pets ahead of time so that when these dogs turn up at shelters or veterinarian offices they can be scanned to find their rightful owners.

In response to this continuing trend, AKC offers the following advice to prevent your "best friend" from being the target of a crime. See more about pet theft on the [Good Morning America](#) Web site.

(Continued on page 3)

GROWL

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RKC OFFICERS **RKC Board of Directors**

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PREVENTION

In the Neighborhood

- **Don't let your dog off-leash** – Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves.
- **Don't leave your dog unattended in your yard** – Dogs left outdoors for long periods of time are targets, especially if your fenced-in yard is visible from the street.
- **Be Cautious with information** – If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.

On the Road

Never leave your dog in an unattended car, even if it's locked – Besides the obvious health risks this poses to the dog, it's also an invitation for thieves, even if you are gone for only a moment. Leaving expensive items in the car such as a GPS unit or laptop will only encourage break-ins and possibly allow the dog to escape, even if the thieves don't decide to steal it too.

- **Don't tie your dog outside a store** – This popular practice among city-dwelling dog owners can be a recipe for disaster. If you need to go shopping, patronize only dog-friendly retailers or leave the dog at home.

RECOVERY

- **Protect your dog with microchip identification** – Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a microchip. Thieves will not know the dog has a microchip until a veterinarian or shelter worker scans it so keep contact information current with your microchip recovery service provider. For more information, enroll your pet in a 24-hour recovery service and sign-up at www.akccar.org.
- **If you suspect your dog has been stolen** – Immediately call the police / animal control officer in the area your pet was last seen and file a police report. If your dog has a microchip, ask to have that unique serial number, along with the dog's description, posted in the "stolen article" category on the National Crime Information Center.
- **Canvass the neighborhood** – Talk to people in the immediate vicinity where your pet went missing for possible sightings of the actual theft.
- **Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing** – Keep several current photos (profile and headshot) of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.

Contact the media – Call the local TV station, radio station and newspaper and ask to have a web post put out about your missing pet

PET TRAINING/OBEDIENCE SCHEDULE

2009 - 2010

First Session

Sept. 16, 23, 30

Oct. 7, 21, 28

Nov. 4

Second Session

Nov. 18

Dec. 2, 16, 23

Jan. 6, 20, 27

Third Session

Feb. 3, 17, 24

Mar. 3, 17, 24, 31

Fourth Session

Apr. 7, 21, 28

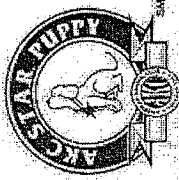
May 5, 19, 26

June 2

Class registration forms are available on our website under "classes" or 973-697-9456

www.ramapokennelclub.com

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS, BREEDERS,
OWNERS OF MANY CHAMPION/
OBEDIENCE/THERAPY TITLED DOGS



OUR TRAINING STAFF ARE MEMBERS OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF PET DOG TRAINERS



CLUB MEETINGS

HELD THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH 8:00 PM

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

VFW

45 PLYMOUTH STREET

FAIRFIELD, NJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACTIVITIES
AND MEMBERSHIP

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR SPEAK
TO ONE OF YOUR INSTRUCTORS

PUPPY KINDERGARTEN

PET TRAINING

**AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY
PROGRAM**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Get your puppy off on the
right paw. Join us and have
your puppy become a

"Star Puppy"

VFW HALL
CAREY AVE

BUTLER, NJ 07405

OBEDIENCE - MANNERS
CANINE GOOD CITIZEN INSTRUCTION
PUPPIES TO ADULTS

WE OFFER THE FINEST INSTRUCTION WITH
POSITIVE, GENTLE TRAINING METHODS.



SHOW HANDLING CLASSES

TUESDAY EVENINGS

Sept. 15 & 29
 Oct. 6 & 20
 Nov. 3 & 17
 Dec. 1 & 15
 Jan. 5 & 19
 Feb. 2 & 16
 Mar. 2 & 16
 Apr. 6 & 20
 May 4 & 18

DROP-IN CLASSES ONLY

7:00 - 7:45 PM

\$10.00 per class or a sheet of 10 coupons for \$90.00.

Open class, 10 dogs maximum. First come, First served.

FMI: SHOW HANDLING

LINDA HACHTEL
 973-697-4337

LINMARVIZ@MSN.COM



www.ramapokennelclub.com

VFW

69 CAREY AVE
 BUTLER, NJ 07405

DIRECTIONS:

Route 287 North or South--exit for Route 23 North. Continue north on Route 23 for approximately 1 1/2 miles. Watch for sign for Barholdt Ave. (just after "Jiggs" bar/restaurant). Make right on Barholdt. Go to end and make right onto Carey Ave. Go approximately 3/10 MI. to VFW Hall on right.

Route 23 Northbound (follow above)

Route 23 Southbound--From Kinneelon/Butler area) Go thru light for Boonton Ave (just past Ford Dealer) continue to Morse Ave. Turn right. (Just before the next light) Cross over to Route 23 North and follow above directions.

NO CLASSES ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR FOR YOUR SCHEDULE

www.ramapokennelclub.com



INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

CALL RUTH 973-697-9456 OR
 JOANNE 201-891-5090



**PET TRAINING/
 OBEDIENCE CLASSES**

WEDNESDAY EVENING

6:30 - 7:15 KPT... (under 6 Months)
 STAR PUPPY PROGRAM
 (UP TO 1 YEAR)
 7:30 - 8:15 BEGINNER
 8:30 - 9:15 RALLY ALL LEVELS

Enhance the relationship between you and your dog. Teach your dog to become a CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

FEES: \$125.00 KPT/BEG. (INCLUDES EQUIPMENT)
 \$115.00 SHELTER/RESCUE/RKC CLUB MEMBERS

(proof required for shelter/rescue)
 \$120.00 RALLY/NOVICE
 (basic obedience required for Rally)

FMI: Training classes, Puppy classes, Rally

Ruth Henningsen
 973-697-9456
 ruthh.sno-dog@luna.com

Joanne Silver
 201-891-5090
 silverck@carrol.com



A Dog's Eye View

By Petunia Puppy

(First weeks appeared in November Newsletter)

(Week 6):

We're starting to understand what this class is all about...we ran a full obstacle course incorporating the commands we've been practicing...some did it at a snail's pace, but we all did it, even the dreaded tunnel...it must have been National Bark Night...everyone had something to say...out came the Binaca and conversations were cut short...that stuff tastes terrible, almost as bad as scotch...(I know, I tried some one night when Mom wasn't guarding her drink)...the instructor pulled a nasty trick on us...she put great stuffed toys and yummy smelly treats on the floor and we had to "leave it"...was she out of her mind???...leave liverwurst and chicken bits!...there was a lot a grumbling about that exercise...next week is graduation...guess I better practice marching to Pomp and Circumstance in 4-paw drive...

(Week 7):

It's Graduation!...we played Musical Paper which Mom seemed to remember as Musical Chairs...then there was the timed obstacle course...am I getting shorter or was the ramp higher than last week?...finally we all had to perform a trick, and just looking cute didn't count...what huge changes we made in 7 weeks!...the wild kites in the wind have been transformed into puppies who pay attention and are eager for the next command...we all qualified for the AKC STAR program...Mom said the recognition is nice and even if I go on to competition, that I'll always be a special STAR in her eyes...

Bye bye and thanks, Ruth...get ready Elaine...beginner class, here I come!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

My Bernese puppy Holly and I finished the first session of puppy kindergarten. We think more of Ramapo's breeders should take advantage of this great class and these terrific instructors.

Best regards,
Linda Berndt

Hi Ruth, last night I went to the handling class at the VFW and it was great. Your club does a great job, all the people were nice, it was way longer than 45 minutes and there were about 13 of us. I got there at 6:00 so we could walk around and try to get him pay attention a little. It seems that handling and obedience classes might help each other. Can't wait to go on the 15th.

Thanks again. Kathy and U2

SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE JUDGES
FOR 2010 RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB POINT SHOWS

Your suggestions are needed for judges for our **2010** Point Shows. Please remember that no suggestions will be accepted over the phone and none will be accepted unless a reason is given. You can also fax or e-mail this form to the show chairman. Judges should be able to do at least one group if coming from out of town.

Deadline is January 15, 2010 . Also, keep in mind that we need to assemble 2 panels of judges!

MEMBER NAME _____

JUDGES NAME _____

JUDGES FEE (if known) _____

BREEDS AND / OR GROUPS LICENSED TO JUDGE _____

REASONS FOR SUGGESTING THIS JUDGE _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Diane Ammerman
598 Pulis Avenue
Mahwah, NJ 07430

or

E-MAIL: Ammerman@us.ibm.com

DATES to REMEMBER

All membership meetings are held at the

VFH Hall

45 Plymouth Street

Fairfield, New Jersey

8:00 p.m.

2010

January 13th

Membership Meeting – Speaker - Alyson Halpin, who is a
Animal Acupressure Practitioner and incorporates aromatherapy, massage,
Bach Flower, Crystal & Color Therapy, along with Reiki.

February 10th

Membership Meeting

March 10th

Membership Meeting

April 14th

Membership Meeting

IMPORTANT NOTE: We are always looking for Guest speakers. If you have any ideas or better yet know of someone, please speak to Joanne Silver at the next meeting or call her at (201) 891-5090.

Ramapo Kennel Club GROW!
11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

FIRST CLASS MAIL