



DOGNAPPING

1. Last Friday, James Cosens was walking his five-month-old puppy, Rosie, close to his home in Wales. While Rosie was running around, she ran close to two men. One of them picked her up and said to James, "I am taking your dog. If you try to take her back, I will stab you". What the criminals didn't know was that James used to be an amateur boxer. Not seeing any weapons on the men, James used his skills to fight them off and successfully got Rosie back.
2. Less lucky was Ryan Fischer, a dog walker in Los Angeles. While he was walking three French bulldogs: Koji, Gustav, and Miss Asia, two men attacked him. Mr. Fischer tried to defend himself, but he was shot in the struggle. The two men took the bulldogs, but Miss Asia managed to escape. The dogs belonged to actress and singer, Lady Gaga who offered a no-questions-asked \$500,000 reward for their safe return. The dogs were eventually given back, and Mr. Fischer survived, but not before spending time recovering in the hospital.
3. So why the attacks on people walking dogs? During the pandemic, there has been a large increase in the number of people buying dogs. Due to the demand, prices have gone up: a puppy which used to cost \$700 can now be sold for four times that amount. Greater profits have attracted criminals, with animal thefts rising by 250% in the UK. Criminals have even been impersonating charity officials to get to the dogs. Dr. Jane Tyson from the RSPCA, a British animal charity, described this method as "shocking" but added that real officers will "always wear an identity badge and a branded uniform".
4. In the UK, the government is discussing making "dognapping" a more serious offense. At present, the maximum jail time for this crime is seven years. This, however, may well increase. One strong argument for an increase is the amount of emotional damage created by the loss of a beloved dog. To many people, dogs are members of the family. The discussion over penalties for this crime continues, but in the meantime, Dr. Jane Tyson offers some advice. Most dog thefts are from gardens, so do not leave them unattended there. It's also important to not leave them alone outside shops or in cars.

Sources: *The Guardian*, *BBC News*, *Sky News*



SKIMMING FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Look at the following titles. Match them to paragraphs 1 – 4 (text on the next page). One of them is not used.

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| 1. Reasons for dognapping. | A. Not used |
| 2. An attempted robbery | B. Paragraph 1 |
| 3. A shooting | C. Paragraph 2 |
| 4. What's dognapping? | D. Paragraph 3 |
| 5. The consequences of dog theft | E. Paragraph 4 |

SYNONYMS

Read through the text and find words which are synonyms for the following.

1. _____ guns and knives (para. 1)
2. _____ run away (para. 2)
3. _____ ultimately (para. 2)
4. _____ incomes (para. 3)
5. _____ upsetting (para. 3)
6. _____ adored (para. 4)
7. _____ alone (para. 4)

COMPREHENSION

Look at the following statements and decide if they are True or False.

1. The two men snatched Rosie from James Cosens' hands.
2. James knew how to fight.
3. The two men who attacked Ryan Fischer had a gun.
4. Lady Gaga offered a reward for all three of the dogs to be returned.
5. Ryan Fischer died as a result of the attack.
6. Due to demand, puppies can now cost as much as \$2,800.
7. At the moment, stealing a dog in the UK could result in spending ten years in prison.
8. The best way to protect your dog from being stolen is not to leave it alone in your garden or out in public.