Vehicle prowls are the theft of property from a motor vehicle. Most are crimes of opportunity through locked doors and open windows where victims usually encounter expensive vehicle damage – especially to their windows, doors and locks. Large parking locations like shopping centers, housing communities, parks and schools are prime targets for a prowler since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. Also, prowlers know the odds are good that someone will leave a door unlocked, a window down or keys in the ignition.

Unfortunately, vehicle prowls are very common. Luckily, they are preventable. Use these easy and inexpensive tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle prowl:

**Parking & Securing Your Vehicle:**

◊ Use a garage or secure location whenever possible
◊ Park in well-lit areas where your car can be seen
◊ Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians
◊ If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 911

◊ Roll up the windows and lock all doors
◊ Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounted tool boxes, and canopies
◊ Activate your alarm
◊ Install anti-theft devices

**Remove These Items:**

◊ Cameras
◊ CD player and CD’s
◊ Cell phones
◊ Checkbooks
◊ Clothing
◊ Credit/debit, gift cards
◊ Day planner
◊ Electronic devices
◊ Garage door opener
◊ GPS unit
◊ Jewelry
◊ Keys
◊ Laptop
◊ Luggage or bags
◊ Mail
◊ Purses
◊ Receipts/statements
◊ Store bags or packages
◊ Tools
◊ Vehicle insurance, title and registration information
◊ Wallets

**Anti-Theft Devices:**

◊ Steering wheel locking devices are easy to install and inexpensive
◊ Car alarms are convenient and effective - Especially if they disable the vehicle’s starter when activated
◊ Install switches to interrupt the fuel supply or electrical systems
◊ Locking gas caps deters fuel from being siphoned

**Paw Tips:**

Lock your doors & windows. Prowls are crimes of opportunity!

Remove your personal property. “Put your junk in the trunk!”

Use anti-theft devices. Utilize visual deterrents.

**For Emergencies, Call 911**