

Vehicle nearly stolen; Dogs dead...

Sunday night, 29 March, at about 02h20 the RoboGuard (a wireless motion sensor outside, one of four) beeped 3 times in the kitchen and I immediately went to the lounge and looked through the window at the stoep where the specific RoboGuard is situated. At first I didn't see any problem but knew as only human body triggers the eye and there must've been someone sniffing around. Then I saw a movement behind the LDV and shouted at 'them' to f*ck off'. Three of them immediately listened to the boss and jumped over the one precast, ran to the other and over that too into the veld next to our plot.

I reset the alarm and went back to bed where it took some time to doze off again.

At about 0415 the RoboGuard was triggered again and this time I was at the window quite quick but didn't see anything, untill...

The bike is not where it was last night!

I immediately took keys and the gun and ran to the LDV to go and look for the bike as it was only seconds since the beeps woke us the second time. When I opened the door of the LDV to get in I (fortunately) looked back and there was the bike on the side stand behind. Apparently where they left it the first time when I asked them politely to sho-sho.

They came back to finish their job. B*****ds!

That is also when I saw my Doberman Pinscher lying quite still on the lawn in front of the kitchen door. She was still alive but only just. The Staffie, I found some 30 yards further around another carport - dead. I rushed my Doberman to the Vet Hospital but she died on the table when the Vet inserted the drip.

When daylight arrived we inspected the bike. They could push it only about 8 yards before I stopped them. It fell over at least twice, once to each side as we could see the dirt marks on the foot pegs. Fortunately there is no visible damage apart from the steering lock that must be broken as the steering is open - and I did lock it myself the afternoon before.

It is now three hours later and I am still waiting for the SAPS to arrive.

What makes me so cross is my dogs. They were like children in the house. They can never be replaced, maybe with another dog but not with that personality.

Our armed response man mentioned that on Friday the same weekend a bike was also stolen and dogs poisoned about 15km from us. Apparently they target off-road bikes and 4-wheelers which are sent to Zim and Moz.

Please beware

Episode 2:

SAPS did turn up and were quite pleasant/efficient. Many clear fingerprints were found on the bike and although I don't expect immediate results these prints will get into a database and eventually, when the culprits are caught, I will be there to have my day.

In the event of them (unsuccessfully) trying to break the steering lock they basically destroyed the ignition and what is around. The key wouldn't go down the hole. I already took the bike to

be repaired. Insurance have also been called upon and my broker promised to refund me if I'm prepared to pay for the repairs upfront. Then the bike will not be parked for an extended period away from home which drives my wife mad! She already made growling noises this morning when she had to leave for her course on cattle management by car. And when a woman growls you make space - very quick and far...

Regarding the dogs;

Yesterday we cleaned the plot where the dogs messed, vomit and pooped during their martyr as best we could. Our two other dogs sleep (fortunately) inside and were not involved. At about 15h00 the afternoon we heard a dog crying and when we ran outside found one of them in pain, muscles trembling and her mouth spitting froth! She must've picked up hopefully the last poisoned bait on the property. We quickly fed her about 200ml strong saline, in the hope to get her to vomit. Then we rushed her to the same Vet I saw very early the same morning. At 18h00 that night he called and reported she is responding well to the treatment and on the way to recover!

The report on the bike is that the mainframe needs replacement as a tear was made into the aluminium when the b*****ds tried to beak the steering lock. The bill will amount to +R31000!

Episode 3 - Now the RT!

Last Saturday we got a new Staffie puppy and since the previous ordeal all the remaining dogs & the puppy sleep inside the house. They enjoy it immensely. We're now relying on the RoboGuard's to warn us of intruders.

Since last week we made a point of opening the vertical louvres in the lounge after lights-out to have a 270 degree visual on the garden area. Most of the garden area is well lit by HP sodium lights.

Sunday night, to the hour exactly seven days later the RoboGuard at the stoep was triggered. I ran to the lounge and looked through the window. We both took two windows to spy. Nothing out of the ordinary on the stoep, but I didn't switch on the stoep light as I wanted to surprise whoever. The RT is at its normal place, lonely now that the ST is in hospital.

Somebody did trigger the sensor and I started looking through other windows. After some 30 seconds I recognised a human body looking around the laundry wall about 15m from me, toward the house. That specific area is not well lit but enough to make out the outlines. I waited and the person slowly moved out into the open as we didn't make any noises, just waited.

He paused long enough for me to aim with the 38S and I pulled the trigger for the 'warning' shot. Straight through the lounge window, a big one of +-2msq. A small hole in the pane and the intruder disappeared into the night.

We called the armed response and the guy and I made a tour of the property and found another pedestrian gate's chain & lock broken and open for the getaway. All other gates were OK. The RT's cover was partly removed when they obviously heard the beep of the RoboGuard inside the house when it was triggered.

These guys are obviously on a mission...

...but so am I!

Lessons from my ordeal:

- Install reliable early warning systems
- Your dogs are only pets. Please do not rely on them to guard you at night.
- I since bought a paintball gun c/w solid nylon bullets and some filled with pepper spray that is said to stun a person for 10 minutes. This gun is accurate up to 40m!
- Open your curtains at night and keep your garden lights on. Stuff Eskom, they won't run to your assistance when needed. Burglars don't like lights.
- RoboGuard sensors are extremely effective. You can set them to wake you without letting the intruder know.
- After a scare, immediately check on your dogs and get them to a Vet immediately when they show ANY signs of distress. The Vet can pull them through, albeit at a price

Don't let these b*****ds cause you to pack up and leave. There is no other country as ours and I will not let them change my lifestyle!

Good luck

Please See:

www.perimetersecurity.co.za for your RoboGuard Equipment and Supplies

www.pepper-gun.co.za for your Pepper-Gun Equipment and Supplies