Therapy dog transport car stolen in SE Portland

1998 Volvo was intended to transport "P-Nut" to students with disabilities

By KOIN 6 News Staff
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PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN 6) — The victim of a Southeast Portland car theft is reaching out to the community in the hopes his story will resonate with the thief’s conscience.

David Blanchard, the founder of a group that uses therapy dogs to help students with disabilities at Clackamas Community College, bought the car for the purpose of transporting his dog, “P-Nut,” to the school. “P-Nut” supports several clients of the VOA InAct Outpatient Program and is scheduled to begin working with students Tuesday.
The 1998 Volvo, stolen last Monday, was parked outside Tom’s Auto (https://plus.google.com/102727765551336085768/about?gl=us&hl=en) in the 8400 block of SE Powell Blvd, before it went in for a servicing, when it was taken.

A white 1998 Volvo, license plate number 544 FBD, was stolen from the 8400 block of SE Powell Monday, September 22. (David Blanchard)

Dan Dang of Tom’s Auto said he was fixing the Volvo for a discount because he knew it was going to be used for a good cause — driving P-Nut the therapy dog around for appointments.

Mechanics at the shop said they parked the car along the side of the building to make room for other cars they were working on. Normally, the keys are taken out of the car, but “the keys were stuck in the ignition,” Dang said.

“We don’t know how to get it off. It’s stuck in there, you know?” he said.

He said he searched the neighborhood himself, but didn’t find it. He said he’ll do things differently next time.

“I was extremely disappointed,” said Blanchard. “It tore at my heart strings because the purpose of the car was for the dogs transportation.”

The group, Refuse to Lose (http://refusetoloseinc.org), bought the vehicle because its previous owner had installed a cargo barrier, ideal for transporting animals.
Blanchard said P-Nut helped him immensely, and wanted to share the dog with students.

“He adapted to behavior in the classroom amazingly,” said Blanchard.

He said he hopes by telling his story, the thief (or thieves) may return the vehicle.

“I just hope it hits the right part of them where they realize maybe this isn’t such a good thing, maybe I’m hurting other people,” said Blanchard.

Blanchard said he is also hoping a member of the public may see the car and report it. He said he wants to get back to helping others.

“It kind of ripple effects {sic} out to the areas where P-Nut can actually do good,” he said.
Volvo used to transport therapy dog for helping students with disabilities stolen

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