

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT FRAUD SCHEMES

CAUTION: FRAUD SCHEME INVOLVING FAKE ONLINE ADS FOR PUPPIES AND KITTENS

You see an ad on an online auction or Facebook that has the cutest photo of a puppy or kitten. There is talk of finding a loving home and you are hooked: that animal is meant to be your companion!

You follow the payment instructions that require use of a money transfer, prepaid card, or some other untraceable, uncommon payment method. But then you get a follow up message stating that there are special courier charges to pay or that an expensive crate is required for transportation. You pay, but then there is another request for more money. Finally you realized that you have been scammed!

Be wary of advertisements for animals that are located far away from you, who are free (as long as you pay transportation costs), or require payment through an untraceable method. It is always okay to be skeptical!



RESOURCE ALERT!

Wondering what to do if your identity is ever stolen? Trying to recover after your information was used by a thief?

Then visit the newly redesigned www.IdentityTheft.gov!

The Federal Trade Commission recently completed an entire overhaul of the website that provides useful information about recovering from identity theft. Some of the new features include plain language explanations, checklists to keep track of your progress, and fillable letters to send to credit bureaus, businesses, and debt collectors. These features will help you, or someone you know, navigate the challenging and stressful aftermath of identity theft!

Do not wait until your identity is stolen! Head over to the website to browse recovery steps. Knowledge is power!

WANT TO REPORT A POSSIBLE FRAUD?

General Reports: Anti-Fraud Hotline

855.303.9470 or www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline

Identity Theft Resources: www.IdentityTheft.gov

Telephone or online fraud scheme?

Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov)

Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov)

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service

1.717.257.2330 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Scheme involving money sent with MoneyGram or Western Union?

MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947

Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492