



Tips for a Pet-Safe Halloween

Keeping your pets safe on Halloween doesn't have to be tricky. Here are some common sense tips for keeping your pet safe and stress-free on Halloween:

NO TRICKS, NO TREATS

Candy is dangerous to pets. Keep it out of reach. Chocolate in all forms can be dangerous, even lethal, for cats and dogs. Candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol can be poisonous.

Cats love to play with candy wrappers, but eating aluminum foil or cellophane can cause intestinal blockage and induce vomiting. Sticks on caramel apples can be swallowed and cause damage to internal organs or block airways. If your dog or cat accidentally ingests any potentially harmful products, consult your veterinarian, or contact the ASPCA's Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 (a fee applies) or online at www.asPCA.org/apcc.

DECORATIONS CAN BE DANGEROUS

Popular Halloween plants, like pumpkins and decorative corn, are considered to be relatively non-toxic, yet they can produce gastrointestinal upset or intestinal blockage if swallowed. A carved pumpkin is festive, but use caution if you add a candle. Pets can easily knock a lit pumpkin over and start a fire. Curious kittens especially run the risk of getting burned or singed by a candle flame.

Keep wires and cords for electric lights and other decorations out of reach of your pets.

DRESSING UP

Keep pet costumes safe and comfortable. Make sure the costume does not limit your pet's movement, hearing, sight or ability to breathe, bark or meow. Make sure the costume doesn't have any small, dangling or easily chewed-off pieces that could become a choking hazard. A simple, decorative collar or bandana is a great alternative!

BETTER SAFE THAN SCARY

Keep pets inside and in a safe room away from the front door when trick-or-treaters are visiting. Too many strangers, especially those bizarre-looking Halloween visitors, can be scary and stressful for pets. When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take extra care that your cat or dog doesn't dart outside!

ID, PLEASE!

Make sure your pet is wearing up-to-date identification and that the microchip company has current contact information. If, for any reason, your pet escapes and becomes lost, a collar and tag, and microchip increases the chance that your pet will be returned to you. Information provided by www.asPCA.org.