



Keep your Pets Safe on Halloween

Halloween is one of those holidays enjoyed more by people than pets. For safety's sake, keep your pets in a quiet place, away from the colorful characters that will appear on your doorstep.

You may know that the miniature monsters and goblins that come knocking on Halloween aren't real, but pets don't. Dogs and cats are creatures of habit and are liable to become frightened or agitated by the unaccustomed sights and sounds of trick-or-treaters.

Take the following precautions to ensure a safe Halloween for you and your pets:

- Keep pets safely inside, away from trick-or-treaters and other Halloween activities. This will ensure that pets won't become frightened or feel threatened at the sight of costumed children. In addition, frequently opened doors provide a perfect opportunity for escape, which can go unnoticed during all of the commotion. Be sure all pets are wearing a collar and ID tags in case of accidental escape.
- Keep candy safely out of your pet's reach. Candy, especially chocolate, can be harmful, even toxic, to pets. Instead, have a few of your pet's favorite treats on hand.
- For their sake and yours, keep pets away from live flame decorations like candles and jack-o-lanterns, and restrict your pet's access to hanging decorations, such as streamers. Pets are curious and can become tangled or even choke if they chew on the decorations.
- Resist the urge to put your pet in a costume. With rare exception, pets don't like the constraints of "clothes." Additionally, masks and flowing capes can cause injury to your pet.
- Don't let the family dog accompany the kids on their trick-or-treat outing. Children may have a difficult time handling a pet during the festivities.

Halloween can be safe for all members of your family- both the two and four-legged members. So take some simple precautions, keep your pets inside, and have a HAPPY HALLOWEEN.

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