

Planning For Your Pets

Halloween Safety

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It's that spooky time of year again... Halloween is coming! Most people know how to keep themselves and their children safe on Halloween night, but it's equally important to keep your furry family members safe while trick-or-treating, -whether you go out or stay in.

Halloween is a great holiday to interact with neighbors and children, however, it's also a great holiday for sneakier dogs and cats to slip out of the door when you're distracted with giving away candy, or they nose open a door that wasn't closed all the way. Unfortunately, many dogs and cats make it outside during the Halloween holiday, so keep your animals either in a sequestered area or on a leash. Outside cats and dogs should ideally be brought inside for the evening. If you like to decorate for the holiday, make sure the wires, plugs and various cords from your decorations are out of reach or covered – unfortunately many animals (especially cats!) think they are fun toys; however, serious burns or electrocution can occur with chewing or playing. The same caution should be taken with candles or other flames that are used in jack-o-lanterns, for example. Curious kitties or young dogs, in particular, like to see what that moving light is, and can get burned! When selecting your costume for the holiday, keep in mind that when you put it on, you might look REALLY scary and unusual to your pet. The same is true

for visitors and children who come knocking while trick-or-treating. If your dog is not in a separate room for the evening hours, be wary that he or she might interpret these festive costumes as a threat to you or your home, and could react with fear or aggression. Additionally, these days, there are almost as many cute and comical pet costumes as there are human ones! If you decide to get your pet into the holiday spirit with a Halloween costume, be sure to choose one that fits your animal (not too tight or loose), and never leave your pet unattended while wearing a costume.

Finally, one of the most obvious ways to keep your pet safe on and around Halloween is to be careful with the candy! Candy is central to the Halloween holiday tradition, and as we all know, chocolate is a no-no for pets. Additionally, there are many candies that contain xylitol, which is very dangerous for animals when ingested. Make sure that your candy bowl is put away and all the candy stashes are kept

in safe, secure locations, far away from prying noses - especially during the actual trick-or-treating hours, when it often feels more convenient to keep it out or close by the door. In case of emergency, contact a veterinary emergency hospital immediately or the Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

Halloween is a fun, festive holiday for the whole family, but remember to keep your furry kids in mind when making plans for the evening. Having a plan in place in case of emergency is the best way to keep your whole family safe!

