

TOP TEN HALLOWEEN Pet Safety Tips



1. **CANDY** As much as your dog or cat may beg for some of your Halloween candy, always remember that chocolate - especially dark chocolate - can be deadly to pets. Candy containing xylitol, an artificial sweetener, can also be poisonous. And, as with young children, hard candy is a choking hazard. Keep candy in a safe place that pets can't reach. When buying treats for your trick-or-treaters, buy some special dog and cat treats for your four-legged spooky friends, too!
2. **CANDY WRAPPERS** Swallowing foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be as harmful as the candy. Pets may choke on them or they may cause an intestinal blockage.
3. **CANDLES** Lit candles in pumpkins and candlesticks can easily be knocked over by a curious cat or wagging tail, causing singed whiskers, a severely burned paw or tail or a dangerous fire.
4. **ELECTRIC CORDS** Keep wires and cords from electric lights and other decorations out of reach of your pets. If chewed, your pet could experience damage to his mouth, or receive a possibly life-threatening electrical shock.
5. **PET COSTUMES** Some pets actually enjoy dressing up for Halloween. Others prefer their "birthday suits" or a simple festive bandana. Monitor pets in costume for tight fitting elastic and chewing. Beware of small bells and other small, dangling costume parts which may a danger if ingested. Masks need large eye holes so pets can see well peripherally. A normally calm dog may get snippy if he feels threatened by not seeing well around him.
6. **STRANGE PEOPLE** Even the friendliest dog may react with fear or aggression to a child or adult in costume and prefer to stay home instead of joining you for trick-or-treating. The last thing you need is a law-suit after what should be a fun night for all.
7. **FRONT DOOR** Beware of your pet darting out the door during trick-or-treat hours. Keep them safe in another room or in their kennel.
8. **PARTIES** Too many strangers, loud noises and music can be scary and stressful for pets. Some at the party may think it's funny to let a pet drink alcohol but it can kill them. A begging pet may eat too many people treats and put a quick end to the party by vomiting or requiring an emergency visit to the veterinarian. Keep your pet in a room where they won't be disturbed and check on them once in a while to let them know everything is fine.
9. **ID TAGS** Make sure your pet always has proper identification. If your pet somehow escapes or becomes lost, it helps ensure their safe return home.
10. **BEWARE** Unfortunately, some people use Halloween as an excuse to abuse animals. Take precautions to keep your pet safe from the real ghouls, too!

