

Halloween Hazards FOR PETS

Don't let the spookiest night of the year turn into a nightmare for your pets! For a safe and happy Halloween, keep your furry loved ones away from these holiday threats:

Halloween Candy and Gum

Make sure all trick-or-treating booty stays safely out of reach of your four-legged friends. Candy (*especially sugar-free versions with xylitol*), wrappers, gum, and chocolate are all extremely dangerous for pets—but so are raisins! Never give your pets human Halloween treats, or leave them alone with temptation. If they break into your stash, immediately call your vet or the **ASPCA Poison Control Hotline at (888) 426-4435**.

Decorations

Decking the halls for Halloween is one of the best parts of the holiday, but also one of the most dangerous for pets. More than a few curious kittens and puppies have knocked over lighted jack-o-lanterns and started a fire! Keep pets away from dangling garlands and cords, and scary noise/motion devices. Make sure batteries for flashlights or costumes are also safely stowed—they can cause serious chemical burns if chewed.

Glow-in-the-Dark Accessories

Eerie glow-in-the-dark jewelry, magic wands, and accessories might take your costume to the next level, but keep them away from your furry loved ones. They contain a bitter-tasting chemical called butyl phthalate that irritates pets' mouths and causes excessive salivation.

Halloween Costumes

Let's face it, pet costumes are not nearly as much fun for the pets as they are for us. No matter how cute the costume, don't force it on an unwilling fur baby. With pets that actually don't mind dressing up, be sure that the costume fits properly, and does not block their sight, hearing, breathing, or movement. Look out for easily chewable straps and choking hazards, and never leave your little trick or treater unattended while they're still in their Halloween finery.

Running Away From Home

With all the spooky sounds and unfamiliar visitors on Halloween night, the odds of losing a pet are especially high. Keep pets secured in a room away from the front door area, or on a leash so they can't escape. Also, double check that you've microchipped your pet and have up-to-date contact information in the registry—and/or, that your pet is wearing a well-fitting collar with ID tags securely attached. These precautions give dogs and cats a much better chance of coming home again if they slip away into the night.

