

Halloween Safety for Your Pet

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Soon enough the season of costumes and Jack-O'-Lanterns will fill our neighborhoods with an endless parade of trick-or-treaters heading for our doorsteps. This year, be prepared to make the season a safe one for all members of the family. Here are some important tips our veterinarians recommend:

- Halloween season is a time of mischief and pranks, and too often dogs and cats become unwilling participants. Keep your outdoor pets well supervised in the yard or, better yet, keep them indoors and safe from neighborhood hooligans at night.
- If your dog has the personality and temperament to accompany the kids trick-or-treating, there are a variety of [costumes](#) available in pet-friendly sizes. Just make sure the costume doesn't interfere with his ability to breathe, see, hear, move, or bark. Always make sure the fit isn't constricting, and keep an eye out for signs your dog may be getting stressed out.
- Like any other night you take your dog for a stroll, make sure he's wearing his collar and [nametag/ID](#). And with so many other people on the street, it's important to keep him on a [lead or leash](#).
- Just as you'd make sure your kids aren't eating unsafe candy, never let your dog get a hold of any bite-size sweets. Candy and wrappers are potential choking hazards, and chocolate is particularly dangerous for dogs - a toxin. Instead, pick up a container of your pet's favorite [biscuits and treats](#).
- No other time of year will so many strange kids in even stranger costumes be knocking on your door. This can be especially nerve-racking for the territorial dog. With the door opening and closing all night, be careful of him darting out. You may even want to put up a [temporary gate](#) in the entranceway, or keep your pup in a separate room.
- For especially nervous animals, the haunting screams of kids and endless chiming doorbells can get to be too much for comfort. There are a variety of [calming products](#) designed for storm- and travel-shy pets, which are also useful on Halloween.
- Finally, decorations and Jack-O'-Lanterns are tempting for pets to get their noses into. Needless to say, it's too easy for them to get hurt if left unsupervised, whether it's in a tangle of crepe paper or a singed coat from an open flame. Always keep these Halloween favors out of your pet's reach!