

TRICKS & TREATS FOR A PET-SAFE HALLOWEEN

Halloween can be fun and festive for people, but for our pets' it can also be dangerous. Here are some tricks & treats to help you ensure that your pet has a happy and safe Halloween...

TRICKS

- Don't leave your pet outside unattended on Halloween (or on the days preceding or following this holiday). Halloween pranks committed against pets can be vicious, and black cats are particularly at risk.
- Halloween treats are for people, not pets. Candy wrappers and lollipop sticks can be hazardous if swallowed and chocolate can be poisonous for some types of pets.
- Keep pumpkins out of reach of curious noses and paws. If your pooch's tail wags a mile a minute, he may knock over a lit pumpkin and cause a fire.
- Despite how much fun it is for people, some pets don't enjoy getting dressed up for Halloween. If you do dress your pet, be sure that its costume does not interfere with the pet's ability to breathe, see, hear, move, or bark.
- Consider keeping your pet in a separate room, away from the door, when trick-or-treaters arrive. Strange people in even stranger clothes can frighten some pets.
- When you do answer the door for visitors, make sure that your pet doesn't suddenly head for the great outdoors. In case your pet does escape, make sure that it is wearing proper identification. Pets with identification are much more likely to be returned to their owners.

TREATS

Take your favorite pooch on an extra walk and stroll around the neighborhood or park before the festivities start. Quality time spent with their favorite person is the best treat of all!

Make your own treats for your pet. Halloween shaped pumpkins and ghosts' is a fun way to give him a healthy and happy treat!

No time to make your own, then be sure to stock up on dog biscuits or catnip toy and treats with no tricks attached.

With these tips, you can be assured of a howlingly successful Halloween! For more information and tips about holiday safety for pets, call or visit your family veterinarian.

Remember, your veterinarian is your very best source for advice on keeping your pet safe, healthy, and happy!