

Halloween Hazards for Pets

While some families stay home and others go trick or treating, it's safe to say no family wants to rush their pet to the emergency clinic on Halloween. Keep the evening fun and fa-BOO-lous by using these tips to avoid popular items that can be, well, doggone frightening.



Those Tricky Treats

- Make sure any candy for guests or trick or treaters is well out of reach.
- Kids should keep their Halloween haul high up or in a drawer.
- If your dog likes to eat, well, anything, you may have to keep carved pumpkins out of reach. While pumpkin is generally safe, too much can lead to digestive issues.



Devilish Décor

- Speaking of jack-o'-lanterns, the flame may be too enticing to ignore.
- Hanging spiders, bouncing bats, and other decorations may taunt a playful pet. Figure out your pet's reach, and place items accordingly.



Don't Get Ghosted

You may open and close the door countless times, and shooing your dog away each time can get tedious.

- Consider keeping your pet in a crate or a secluded room for its safety – and your sanity.
- Make sure your pet's ID tag is legible. Engraving doesn't last forever.
- Have your vet read your pet's microchip as added peace of mind in case your pet does escape. No chip? It's a great time to get one!

Haunt Couture

- Anytime you put clothing on your pet, make sure it doesn't obstruct their vision or hinder their movements. And a dangling ribbon may be an invitation to chew it off.



Don't sacrifice your pet's comfort for photo shoots.

- Be sure to keep face paint, fake blood, accessories, and plastic teeth out of your pet's reach.



The Trick To Treating

- If you plan to take your dog trick or treating, give it time to get used to the costume first.
- Make sure the costume still allows the use of a secure harness. This is not the time to put vanity ahead of safety.



- Be aware of decorated porches with animatronic skeletons, mist, or scary sound effects. Those can really spook your dog, and not in a fun way.
- Keep it brief. Even if your pup seems calm initially, the repeated exposure to so many new sights and sounds may overwhelm even the most well-socialized dog.

We hope these tips help keep your Halloween – as well as your pets – festive and safe.

Now that's creeping it real.

