Halloween Safety for Pets

Keep your cats safely INSIDE tonight, and keep both cats and dogs secured in a room far away from the action at the front door. In case your pets do make a break for it on Halloween night, ensure that they all have proper, up-to-date ID tags and/or a microchip in time for Halloween. If your beloved pet escapes and becomes lost, these forms of ID are the best way for people to know how to reunite you.

Keep your pets away from CHOCOLATE. Between visitors, store these treats where your pets can’t reach them. Even in minuscule doses, ingesting chocolate can be fatal to cats and dogs. Make sure the kids in your life know not to share their treats with their furry friends!

Candies and candy wrappers are also unsafe for cats and dogs. An artificial sweetener called XYLITOL is a common ingredient in candy, and it’s poisonous for most animals. Wrappers can also be a threat to pets, causing life-threatening bowel obstructions if ingested.

Some people choose to give out boxes of RAISINS at Halloween as a healthier alternative to candy. This is a great idea for trick-or-treaters, but they are very poisonous for dogs. Same thing for grapes! Both are toxic for canines.

Pets are drawn to anything interesting that they can chew, so GLOWSTICKS pose a threat. While eating glowsticks is not usually fatal, it causes them pain and irritation, as well as excessive drooling.

All the noise and activity of Halloween can trigger ANXIETY responses in pets — it’s best to keep your furry companions in a quiet, closed room or covered crate during trick-or-treating hours so they don’t get agitated or run out the open door. Consider a TV or some calming music to mask all the noise, and talk to the kids in your life about not scaring, harassing or otherwise abusing animals on Halloween.

Pet COSTUMES. Take note if your pets are resisting dress-up time — if so, respect their preference not to wear a costume. Show your furbabies how much you love them by avoiding these additional stresses on an already stressful night and try a thematic collar or bandanna instead. If you’re absolutely certain that your animals don’t mind getting dressed up for Halloween, make sure that there are no dangly items like bells or buttons on their costumes that they may potentially choke on. Same goes for children’s costumes — animals like to attack dangly things. And remember that your pets may not recognize you in costume!