

Halloween Precautions for Pets

By Tracy Mason, Co-founder PetSuites of America, Inc.

Halloween for some of us brings great memories of dressing up, trick-or-treating with a posse of friends, ringing the neighbors doorbells and ending our evening at home with mounds of candy. Each one of those activities can spell trouble for your pet if you don't exercise caution.

USE COMMON SENSE

The very best advise is to find a safe, comfortable place for your dogs and cats to rest during Trick or Treat. Keep them out of the Halloween hub-bub. I would advise that you board them overnight, particularly if you're hosting a Halloween event. They don't care about Halloween and in fact, it can be really scary experience with a steady stream of painted, sugar-filled children shouting, "Trick-or-Treat." Set-up your snack table on your porch or driveway in order to avoid the constant ringing of the doorbell. And don't decide that Halloween's the best time to start dressing-up your dog or cat! If they're not in the habit of being dressed, it will be another stressor to them.

Be cautious of lit jack-o-lanterns and candles - dogs can have uncontrollable tails at times!

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THE CANDY!

Over-consumption of candy for humans can be uncomfortable - for our pets it can be deadly! Be cautious of "dumping" the candy somewhere. Chocolate and certain chewing gums can be poisonous to dogs and digesting wrappers of any kind can be fatal if they become lodged in the digestive track.

KEEP YOUR CATS INSIDE DURING HALLOWEEN

If you own a cat and let it go outside, remember that this a bad time of year for cats. Black cats are particularly vulnerable at this time of year. Vicious people tend to find Halloween an excuse to hurt or kill them. Keep them inside for a few days and nights. While they may whine a bit because they are used to going outside, they'll be safer in the house where you can keep an eye on them. There's no need for a pet to run free anyway, keep it home where it's safe all year long.

Again, let's keep Halloween fun for us and safe our beloved pets!