

Halloween Pet Safety

Halloween brings hidden hazards for pets, from toxic treats and unsafe decorations to the stress of ringing doorbells.

Informing the public about Halloween hazards for pets is an important preventative tool.

Toxic Treats and Foods

- Chocolate and Xylitol: Chocolate contains theobromine, which is toxic to dogs and cats. Sugar-free gums and candies often contain xylitol, a sweetener that can cause rapid, life-threatening liver failure and low blood sugar in dogs.
- Raisins and Grapes: Even small amounts of raisins or grapes can cause sudden kidney failure in dogs.
- Candy Wrappers: Foil, cellophane, and plastic wrappers smell like food and can cause dangerous or fatal intestinal blockages if swallowed.
- High-Fat Sweets: Rich or fatty candies can trigger severe and painful pancreatitis.

Dangerous Decorations

- Candles and Pumpkins: Wagging tails or curious noses can easily knock over lit jack-o'-lanterns, causing severe burns or house fires.
- Glow Sticks: If chewed or punctured by cats or dogs, the liquid inside glow jewelry can cause intense mouth pain, excessive drooling, and foaming.
- Electrical Cords: Exposed or dangling wires from lights and animated decorations can lead to electric shocks or mouth burns if chewed.
- Fake Cobwebs and Small Parts: Stringy decorations and small costume accessories pose major choking and gut obstruction risks.

Stress and Escape Risks

- Constant Visitors: A steady stream of strangers in unfamiliar costumes ringing the doorbell can cause intense anxiety, fear, or territorial aggression.
- Open Doors: With people constantly coming and going, startled pets can easily bolt out the door and
- become lost.
- Costumes: Restrictive or heavy outfits can impair your pet's ability to breathe, see, move, or signal stress.

Share these with the public to help animals stay well.

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