

### HALLOWEEN CAN BE SCARY FOR PETS

Halloween goes hand-in-hand with candy, costumes, and trick-or-treating fun, but this holiday can be a stressful and potentially dangerous time for pets.

#### Here are some things to keep in mind:

Loud and excessive noise from trick-or-treaters can frighten your pet. Keep your pet in a calm, quiet area away from the front door to keep them from biting strangers or running into the street.



Candy, especially chocolate, can be toxic to animals and cause vomiting, restlessness, heart problems, and even death. Other dangers are candy wrappers and sugar-free gum. Keep the Halloween candy out of pets' reach, and no sharing with your pets!

Everyone loves jack-o-lanterns, but nobody wants their excited or curious pet to be hurt by an open flame or accidentally start a fire. Keep burning candles safely out of reach or use LED lights instead.

Halloween costumes for pets are cute, but beware of costumes that contain rubber bands to keep them in place, as they can quickly cut off circulation or burrow into your pet's skin. Also watch out for costumes that restrict your pet's breathing, movement, hearing, or vision, or that might cause them to overheat.

With all of the action going on outside Halloween evening, it's really best to keep your pet safely indoors. If you must take your pet trick-or-treating with you, keep it on a short leash to keep it from fighting with other animals or biting strangers. Also have your pet wear a reflective collar or flashing light to make it more visible.

**Have a safe and happy Halloween!**

*Dr. Jay Thrush is the owner of Brandon Hills Veterinary Clinic and we thank him for this information.*