

United Paws offers Halloween pet tips

While it might be monstrous fun for trick-or-treaters, Halloween can be a truly scary time for pets.

Here are some tips from United Paws for keeping your pets safe and happy this Halloween:

- Confine cats and dogs, so any ghouls ringing your doorbell won't scare them.
- Walk dogs well before the witching hour, so they will be relaxed by the time trick-or-treaters start showing up.
- Keep cats indoors between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- Keep all pets in a safe room at the back of the house, with the door closed, far away from goblins clumping up the front path. Give pets their favorite toys and comfy beds, along with fresh drinking water. Switch on the radio or TV at a soft volume to drown out any kid cackling.

- Even the best of intentions can go awry.



Just in case someone opens the door and your cat or dog escapes, be sure they are wearing tags with proper identification. Don't wait until all the ghosts and goblins have finished their rounds; try to find your pets immediately.

They'll undoubtedly be scared and could run far away, get hurt or cause a traffic accident.

- Don't let your pets get into the Halloween candy. This could be fatal. Not only is chocolate toxic to pets, but candy wrappers can cause big problems – and a scary veterinary bill – if ingested. Also, keep lighted pumpkins out of the way of your pets. They may knock them over and cause a fire.

- They may be cute, but don't subject your pets to wearing costumes unless you know for sure they like them. You should always supervise any pet wearing a costume to make they don't get tangled or choke.

- Don't take your pet trick-or-treating. This might be obvious to cat owners, but with the way dogs beg to join in the fun, you might be tempted to take them along. Unfortunately, they could become frightened or even too excited, and in turn bite someone or run away. Best to leave them home in that back room with the cats, the door firmly shut, plenty to drink and the TV to keep them company.

United Paws hopes you and your pets have a ghostly good time.

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