

CANDY

While pets may like the taste of a sweet treat, to prevent illness and exposure to toxic substances, it's best if pets don't have access to candy. If you want to give your pet a treat, make sure it's one made specifically for dogs or cats.

Do NOT feed your pet the following:

- Chocolate
- Excessive amounts of sugary treats
- Food, treats, gum, or candy containing the artificial sweetener, Xylitol
- Candy/food containing raisins and grapes
- Candy wrappers

See a complete list of toxic foods and plants and their effects at the poison control section of the ASPCA's website: www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control

COSTUMES

It is cute to dress up our furry friends, however, consider the following before picking a costume.

- Is the costume too restrictive? Can it cause your pet to choke or become injured?
- Can your pet ingest the costume or decorations?
- Are you using products not approved for use on pets? If you plan to use paint or nail polish, choose varieties that are pet-friendly. Otherwise, your pet may absorb toxic substances through the skin or inhale them, causing breathing problems.

DECORATIONS

Halloween decorations can be fun or scary. Unfortunately to some pets, they may also look like food. Here's what to avoid:

- Some Halloween plants and pumpkins can be harmful. Keep them out of reach.
- Keep your pet away from candles. These could cause a burn risk or even a fire.
- Protect your pet from decoration wires or electrical cords. Pets may chew them and experience shock.

PRANKS

During this time of year, some individuals set out to cause mischief and pets may be intentionally or unintentionally harmed in the process.

- Cats, and especially black cats, can be subject to cruel pranks. We recommend that you keep your cat indoors a few days before and after Halloween.
- Do not leave dogs outdoors and unattended.

TRICK OR TREATERS & PARTY GUESTS

Extra household traffic offers challenges for pet owners. Be aware of the following:

- Frequently opened doors present an opportunity for pets to escape.

Be sure that your pet is:

- Wearing identification (i.e. tag and/or a microchip)
 - Secured to a reflective leash so as to be easily seen in dim lighting
 - Kept secured in a separate room
- The constant sound of the door bell ringing can cause anxiety. Friends and family should be careful around anxious pets. Animals may act out with behaviors that you aren't accustomed to seeing when they feel threatened, afraid, or overwhelmed. Consider these warnings:
 - Is your pet growling or snapping?
 - Are their ears pressed back against their head?
 - Is their fur standing up along their back?

- In the flurry of activity, party guests may feed your pets too much "people food". This can cause an upset stomach and other health concerns. Also make sure that pets don't get into food or candy when no one is looking. Provide treats made especially for dogs/cats for your guests to give your pet.

TIP: Provide treats made especially for dogs/cats for your guests to give your pet this season. You can also consider having special treats handy for any furry Trick or Treaters that may stop by. Please remember to always ask an owner before providing a treat to a pet that you do not know.



Should your pet experience an emergency this Halloween, contact your primary care veterinarian or **East End Veterinary Center in Riverhead, NY** at (631)-369-4513. We are open 24/7, 365 days a year for veterinary emergencies. Have a safe and happy Howl-oween!

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