

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

STASH THE TREATS!

The candy bowl is for trick-or-treaters, not Scruffy or Fluffy! Many Halloween favorites are toxic to your pets, so be sure to keep your furry friend out of the candy bowl and away from the festive foods! Chocolate in all forms—especially dark or baking chocolate—can be very dangerous to both dogs and cats, and sugar free candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol can cause serious even or fatal problems for your pets.

If you suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, call your veterinarian immediately or the Poison Control Center at (888)426-4435.

VISABLE AND IDENTIFIABLE!

Halloween brings a flurry of activity. With visitors at the door, loud noises and scary costumes, Halloween can often be very frightening and stressful for your pets. Be sure to keep all but the most social dogs and cats safe in a separate room away from the entire ruckus during peak trick or treating times. Make sure Fluffy and Scruffy have the proper identification—if for any reason they should escape: a collar with ID tags and/or a microchip can be a life saver for a lost pet.

To learn more about having your pet microchipped or to schedule a time to have your pet microchipped call the Portsmouth Animal Hospital today at (757) 465-5332.

AVOID DECORATION DISASTERS!

While your carved Jack-O-Lantern is festive, pets can easily knock over a lit pumpkin and start a fire. Curious cats and kittens or noisy hounds are especially at risk of getting burned or singed by an open flame. While pumpkins and dry corn are relatively nontoxic to your pets, they can cause some stomach upset for those curious cats and canines that nibble on these decorations. Keep lit pumpkins out of reach or use battery powered LED candles!

SPOOKTACULAR COSTUMES!

For some pets, wearing a costume can cause undue stress. Portsmouth Animal Hospital recommends that you don't put your pet in a costume unless you know they enjoy it. When dressing your pet for Halloween success, make sure the costume does not limit their ability to move, see clearly, breathe normally and bark or meow. Check your costume for easily chewed and swallowed pieces that can be a choking hazard or snag and get twisted in external objects that can lead to injury. Finally have your pet wear the costume before the big night, this will give Fluffy or Scruffy a chance to get used to the costume.

If your pet seems in distress or shows abnormal or fearful behavior, consider letting your pet wear their "birthday suit" or maybe a Halloween themed bandanna instead.

Keep these tips in mind so Halloween can be fun for the entire family, both hairless and furry!

