



Halloween is my favourite time of the year, the costumes, decorations and the candy, but remember not everyone in your house may feel the same way.

Look at it from your dog's point of view. Strange looking creatures are coming to the front door, you open the door to each person, sometimes you even seemed scared but you still give away all that great food.



Your dog can be more easily frightened since they have no idea what's going on. By following some basic tips, you can keep your best friend happy and safe during this spooky time.

Walk your dog before trick-or-treaters start their visits. Keep a firm grip on the leash; many dogs are frightened by people in costumes.

Even the most social dogs should be kept in a separate room during peak trick-or-treat visiting hours. Too many strangers in unusual attire can be scary and stressful for pets.

Your pet may not be afraid of the costumes but you never know which child may be afraid of your dog

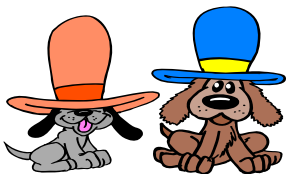


Make sure your dog is wearing an up-to-date I.D. tag.

If you want to have your dog near the door to greet visitors, keep him on a leash. Pets can become very stressed by holiday activities and unwelcome interruptions in their routine. A nervous dog might feel threatened and growl, lunge, bite or try to run away.

Don't leave your pet in the yard on Halloween. There have been reports of vicious pranksters who have teased, injured, stolen and even killed pets on this night. Plus they're likely to bark and howl at the constant flow of trick or treaters

A wagging tail can easily knock things over. Don't leave any lighted candle, pumpkin or Jack-O-Lanterns where they can be hit.



Just because you think Spot looks great in the Halloween costume doesn't mean they like it. Try it on them in advance and see how they react. Make sure the costume doesn't restrict their movement, vision, hearing or ability to breathe or bark.

Keep dogs out of the candy bowl. Dispose of candy wrappers before your pets get to them, since the wrappers can cause choking or intestinal obstruction. Make sure you have some dog treats handy.

Note: Chocolate contains theobromine. While amounts vary by type of chocolate, it's the theobromine that is poisonous to dogs. The symptoms of chocolate poisoning are:

Excessive drooling/panting
Excessive urination
Pupil dilation
Rapid heartbeat



Vomiting and diarrhea
Hyperactivity
Muscle tremors and seizures
Coma

As with any illness or sickness with your pet, seek veterinarian help immediately.