



# Howl-a-Ween Safety For Your Dog

Halloween can be a fun time for everyone, the candy, costumes and parties. That is everyone, except your dog. Look at it from your dogs' point of view: The door bell is constantly ringing, when it opens strange spooky creatures appear and to top it off, my owners keep trying to put that ridiculous hat on me! Here's a few tips to keep Halloween fun for both you and your dog.

## **Candy**

All dogs love candy, but it can be very dangerous to them, especially chocolate. Make sure to keep all candy out of reach for your pup. If you are going trick or treating with your dog, keep an eye open for any candy that has accidentally fallen on the ground. It's a good idea to have the phone number for your vet or an emergency vet if your dog does ingest any type of candy.

## **Costumes**

Seeing people dressed up in costumes can be frightening for some dogs, especially shy dogs. Keep in mind, dogs don't understand that it's really a human wearing the costume. If you notice that your dog is nervous or unsure, try not to force any interactions with or you can ask the person in costume not to pet your dog. If you do want your dog to interact, have lots of tasty treats for the "Goblins" to hand to your dog. That way your pup will think, "This person's not so bad".

Don't be alarmed if your dog does not recognize you in your costume. If this happens, you can call your dog over to you and offer lots of yummy treats. Try to let your dog see you put your mask on and off. This will help them understand that it is really you.

If you plan on having your dog wear a costume, make sure that your dog is not left unattended while it is on. Dogs may either chew on the costume in hopes of removing it or become tangled in it.

## **The Doorbell**

If your dog normally barks when the doorbell rings, Trick or treaters may be stressful for you and your dog. Try to give your dog a safe place to be during all this commotion; their crate, your bedroom, etc. It also helps to give a favorite treat to chew on, a bone or stuffed Kong to preoccupy them. Most importantly, make sure that your dog is not able to run out of the house when the door opens.



**Most Importantly Have a Fun and Safe Halloween!**