

For Immediate Release

Media Advisory
Public Service Reminder

October 29, 2002 - The Ottawa Humane Society wants to remind people with companion animals that Halloween can be a frightening holiday for pets. While adults and children alike enjoy the costumes and candy, these things can actually distress or endanger a companion animal.

To help people keep your pets safe at Halloween, The Ottawa Humane Society recommends taking these precautions:

- Keep pets safely inside, away from trick-or-treaters and other Halloween activities. This will ensure that pets won't become frightened or feel threatened at the sight of noisy costumed children. Cats, especially black ones, may be the target of pranksters. Devil's eve (the night before Halloween) can be very dangerous to cats and dogs alike, be on the lookout for those interested in harming animals.
- Frequently opened doors provide a perfect opportunity for escape, (especially cats) which can go unnoticed during all of the commotion. Be sure all pets are wearing collars with ID tags in case of accidental escape.
- Keep candy out of your pet's reach. Candy can be harmful to pets and chocolate is toxic to dogs.
- Flames in jack-o-lanterns and candles can quickly singe, burn or set fire to a pet's fur.
- Leave the family dog at home for trick-or-treating, some dogs may become difficult to handle during the noise and confusion of the festivities. A lost dog or dog bite will quickly end Halloween fun.
- Keep your pet safe in an enclosed area with a toy and soothing music. Resist the urge to include your pet in your Halloween activities, and everyone can enjoy the holiday.

If you observe an animal in immediate distress or danger, please call the Ottawa Humane Society Emergency Animal Protection Services at 725-1532.

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