

Halloween Pet Safety

While you are getting ready for Halloween, planning your costumes, buying the candy and stringing up the cobwebs, it's a good idea to take a few minutes to make sure your pets are protected. Halloween can be a dangerous time for pets!

First and foremost, remember that chocolate is poisonous! If you plan to give out chocolate treats this year, try to place them in a sealed container, and keep them out of the animals reach. Also, take the goodies gathered trick or treating and seal them up, away from the pets too. Make sure children know not to feed candy to the animals. We all know the sad and sorry faces our dogs can make when we don't share with them so keep some doggy treats handy if you have a begger pooch. Resist the urge to give him just one little taste. Depending on your dog's size, chocolate can kill. Also, watch out for choke-able sized candies, elastic strings on candy necklaces and plastic wrappers that can choke your pet or cause intestinal blockages.

Cats have it particularly hard this time of year, but even dogs are not immune to the animal cruelty that happens around Halloween. If you own an indoor/outdoor cat or a completely outdoor cat, you may seriously want to consider keeping the cat inside, or locked in your garage or basement for the weeks surrounding Halloween. The same holds true for dogs that are allowed to wander unattended. If your cat or dog bolts for the door to get out, or demands pleadingly to go outside, consider crating your dog, or investing in a kitty cage to keep them safe inside (and also to prevent damage to your home if the pet is not used to being inside). We don't even want to mention the horrible things that happen to pets at the hands of suspicious and cruel people around Halloween. Let's just agree that it's a good idea to keep your pets close to home and outside only under supervision.

If you have a high-strung pet, like a dog that is afraid of strangers, take time now to try to acclimate the pet to the rigors of Halloween night. Doorbells ringing over and over can drive a dog wild. Lots of squealing children can scare any pet! Decide what you will do with your pet on Halloween night; will they stay in the living room with you, will they do better in a crate or closed into a room they feel safe in? Extremely sensitive dogs may do better with a mild sedative or perhaps a night out at the kennel or the vets office. Use your knowledge of your pet to decide what to do. In any case, keep a leash handy or attached to your dog for the first few visitors. See how they react to the noise and intrusion of gaggles of little ghosts, goblins and Teletubbies. If they are ok you can remove the leash and let them enjoy the fun. Also remind your children and your scare visitors that even a pet familiar with you may bite and they should not approach any animals unless they have your permission first.

Now, on a happier note, a lot of people like to dress their pet up and bring them trick or treating with the family. What a fun tradition and source of great pictures and memories! But, just as we check the strings and buttons on our kids costumes, a little thought into a pets costume can go a long way for safety. Keep a pets costume lightweight, unless you have a chilly pet by nature; most pets have sufficiently warm fur coats and can get too hot in a stuffy costume. Remove loose buttons, strings or other bits that could be chewed or swallowed. Make sure that the costume doesn't interfere with your pets vision or ability to walk or breathe, also be very sure that your collar and leash are not obstructed so you will always have control of your pet. Even dogs who are normally sedate can get spooked by the noise and costumes on Halloween, so be sure you can keep a hand on them all the time, and if they aren't having fun, bring them home. Don't force a scared pooch to stay outside, or to wear a costume they don't like.

SPOTLIGHT ON:



#290 Gizmo-Sponsored

Domestic Short Hair - gray and white

"My name is Gizmo and I was turned in to the shelter by my owner. They said they were moving and that I couldn't go. From what I hear, a lot of people use that excuse when they bring their pets in here. I don't know if it was true or not. I hope it was, cause I'd hate to think they just dumped me cause they didn't want me anymore. Well, anyway, now I'm up for adoption and I hope you'll come and visit me." Thank you to James and Cheryl Rogers, who sponsored a portion of Gizmo's adoption fee. Now he can go home at a reduced rate!

#12 Bitsy-Sponsored

Beagle Mix

"Hi. My name is Bitsy and I'm a chubby little beagle mix who came to the shelter a few days ago. My owner brought me here because her other dog and I didn't get along. Must have been sibling rivalry, I guess! I'm only two years old and I have plenty of life left and plenty of love to give!" Thank you to James and Cheryl Rogers, who sponsored a portion of Bitsy's adoption fee. Now she can go home at a reduced rate!



#74 Sneakers

Domestic Short Hair-orange

"My name is Sneakers and I'm a little bitty kitty who is at the shelter waiting for somebody to come adopt me. There sure are a lot of us though! I wonder where all the adoptive parents are? I hope they come soon, cause we're all ready to go home and meet our new families!"

#21 Indy

Beagle Mix

"Hello! I'm Indy, and I'm a pretty little beagle mix girl who came to the shelter from down around Fairmount Road. I'm a little bit shy, but I warm up to new people fast. I'm still young, probably just a few months old, and I'm really looking forward to meeting my new family."



We are filled to capacity with cats right now and **DESPERATELY** need to find homes for some of them. Please save a life...adopt a homeless cat! If you can't adopt right now, we are always in need of temporary foster homes too!

SPOTLIGHT ON:



#94 Groucho

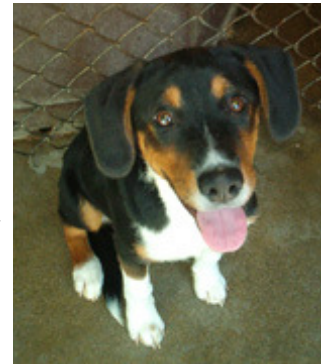
Domestic Short Hair-black and white

"My name is Groucho (I got that name cause of my little moustache). I'm a shy little kitty who arrived at the shelter in mid-September from over in Westwood Estates. I didn't live there though. I really didn't live anywhere at all. So I came out here so they can find me a safe indoor home."

#42 Reese

Beagle Mix

"My name is Reese and I was turned in to the shelter cause I had been chained up and that's just no life for a dog! I'm only seven or eight months old and I'm good with kids and other dogs. I ride well and I'm almost housebroken (I just need a little bit of work on it). If you want to adopt me, please contact the shelter."



#108 Sophia

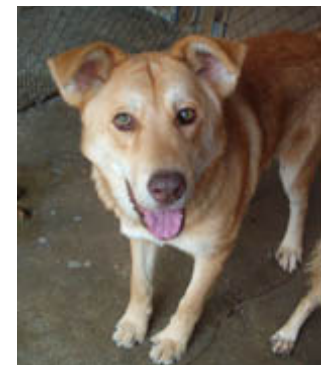
Dilute Calico

"My name is Sophia and I'm one of the many kitties here at the shelter who are waiting for a family of their own. I can't understand why everyone doesn't want a cat, but they say there are just too many pets and not enough homes for us all. So please come to the shelter and take a look around. We all deserve homes of our own."

#50 Lucky

Shepherd Mix

"My name is Lucky, but I guess I wasn't so lucky after all! I had a home of my own once, but my owner had to bring me out here cause she is having to move in with her son because of her bad health. So now I'm homeless and I want a person of my own again!"



Why pay hundreds of dollars for a pet at a store, when you can save a life by adopting a homeless pet? Adoption fee for dogs is only \$85 and adoption fee for cats is only \$65, and that INCLUDES the spay/neuter and vaccinations!

**Anderson Humane Society
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Lawrenceburg, KY 40342**

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October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month

The ASPCA and your local animal shelter will be celebrating October as Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month to encourage Americans to turn their houses into homes by adopting a shelter dog. Each year millions of dogs enter our nation's shelters, yet of the approximately 59 million owned dogs in this country, less than 20% are shelter adoptees.

"Nothing adds more warmth to a home or offers a better greeting after a hard day's work like a wagging tail and a pair of big brown eyes," says Dr. Larry Hawk, ASPCA President & CEO. "Make Pet Adoption Your First Option" is a message that the ASPCA encourages throughout the year in order to facilitate our ultimate goal, an end to the euthanasia of all adoptable animals. Helping us to achieve this goal and supporting Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month, is our online partner Petfinder.com. Equipped with a searchable database of over 4,000 animal shelters and rescue groups, potential adopters can view thousands of adoptable animals ranging in age, size, breed and location.

Dog Gone Purrfect Calendar Photo Contest

Entries will be judged by the public via online voting. The winners pictures will be published in calendars which will be for sale at our Giant Rummage Sale and Pet Portraits in November, and will also be available at the animal shelter. Pictures will be available for online viewing and voting from October 15th through November 5th. Each vote is 25 cents (to help offset the cost of printing the calendars). Please remember that this is going to a good cause! Proceeds will benefit the Humane Society's spay/neuter assistance fund!

Right now, we have lots of applications from our local citizens who would like to have their pets spayed/neutered, but our funding has been expended. We need to raise about \$2,000 in order to fill all of our applications. Please help us make this fundraiser a successful one! Visit our website at

www.andersonky.petfinder.com to view this year's entries.