



Vets Love Pets!

Dr. Tammy Wilde, Dr. Rory Wiens & Dr. Eva Braze
Tudor Glen Veterinary Hospital Ph: (780) 458-6051



October
2008

TRICK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN FOR YOUR PETS



While you are perfecting your costume, buying masses of candy and tweaking the haunted house, it is also important to prepare your pets for Halloween. This holiday can be potentially dangerous and stressful for your pets. In this month's newsletter, we will provide cautions, reminders and tips to ensure your pet is happy this Halloween too.

Scaredy-cats and Spooked dogs

Only the most social of dogs should be allowed to greet trick or treaters on Halloween night. With the door bell constantly ringing, and the steady flow of strangers in irregular clothing, this can cause both cats and dogs to panic and act out of character. It is advised that pets be kept in a separate room or crated over the course of the evening to avoid unwelcome accidents. With the door continually opening and closing, take care that your pets do not dart outside. If you are accompanying children for trick or treating, leave your pets at home. Pets can get excited with all the candy seeking commotion around them and this may provoke them to snap at young children. Should you have to take your dog with you, keep them on a short leash and stay away from large groups of children and other pets.



Dress-Up, Mess-Up

Please do not put your cat or dog in a costume *unless* you know they love it (yeah, some pets are big hams!); forcing pets into a costume can cause undue stress. If you are among the 10% of Halloweeners that do dress your pet up, please ensure the costume is not dangerous. It should not restrict your pet's movement, hearing or impede their ability to breathe or bark. Avoid costumes with small or dangling pieces that they could chew off and possibly choke on. Do not use rubber bands as they can constrict blood flow if too tight and can become tangled in their fur. Also, make certain that your pet's costume does not obstruct their vision in any way as even the most friendly of pets can become snappy when they cannot see. Also, never leave a pet in costume unattended.

No Treats = No Tricks

Remember, the bowl full of candy is for the human kids not your furry ones. Do not give your pets any candy, especially chocolate. Candy itself can make your pet sick and chocolate can definitely be poisonous to both dogs and cats. Cellophane wrappers, foil papers and lollipop sticks should be discarded into the garbage properly. These items can be hazardous to your pet if swallowed, causing intestinal obstructions and even perforating the intestines, which is life threatening. If you suspect your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance it is imperative that you contact your veterinarian immediately.

Beware the wagging tail!

It is not a bright idea to keep lit pumpkins and candles around your pets. Though very festive, Jack-o-lanterns can be easily knocked over by a wagging tail or a curious cat. Kittens especially run the risk of being burned or singed by candle flames.



Attention: Black Cats!!!

Many animal shelters prohibit the adoption of black cats and white bunnies around the Halloween season for fear that they will be victims of Halloween pranks. In fact, it is advised that pets should be kept inside on Halloween night as there have been reports of pets being teased, injured, stolen or worse. Black cats in particular may be at risk from children's pranks or cruelty related incidents — it is highly recommended that they be kept indoors several days prior to (and on the night of) Halloween.

Quick Hints for a Happy Halloween



- Make sure your pets have collars and current identification tags just in case they manage to get outside during peak trick or treating visiting hours.
- No masks, beads, loose dangling accessories and other small objects on a costume. Watch for chewing, pawing, or signs of discomfort.
- If your pet gets nervous and upset, and just does not like the idea of being dressed, forget the costume idea. A simple doggy/kitty sized cotton t-shirt would be more comfortable. Or... get a colourful Halloween print collar or bandana instead.
- Pumpkins and decorative corn are relatively non-toxic however they can produce gastrointestinal upset should your pets consume them. Intestinal blockage could even occur if large pieces are ingested.
- If possible, walk your dog earlier that evening, before it gets dark, that will lessen the chance of your dog getting into any discarded candy, or the remnants of any pranks, such as broken eggs. It also reduces the possibility that so many loud children in strange costumes will freak them out.

Pet Trivia

1. Which breed of dog can not swim?
2. Which breed of dog has webbed feet, making them great swimmers & divers?
3. Which breed of dog is the only animal whose evidence is admissible in an American court?



Happy Halloween

Pet Trivia Answers: 1. Bassets, 2. Newfoundland's, 3. Bloodhound

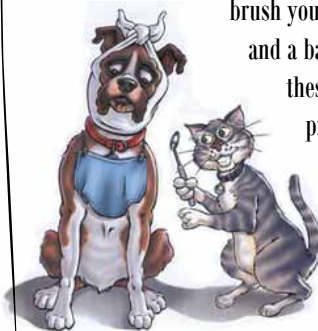
Pet of the Month

Does your dog sing along with Madonna? Can your cat play fetch? Or just simply ... is your pet your best friend? Either way, celebrate your pet by nominating them for Pet of the Month. Each month, we feature a special pet on our website, and in our reception, for all our clients to see. It is easy to nominate your furry friend — all we need is your favourite photo and a brief description/story (no more than 100 words) about your pet that we can include in the posting. We will let you know if your pet is chosen. You can either drop off your submission to the hospital reception (attention Sarah Ferguson) or nominate your pet electronically via our website — www.tudorglenvethospital.ca.



Complimentary Dental Consultations

Toothaches and this season seem to go hand in hand or paw in paw. With all the candy consumption, quite often we find ourselves in for a dental check-up. Though our pets should not be indulging in treats, their dental health is important too and we do not want to neglect them this season. In this effort, Tudor Glen Veterinary Hospital is continuing to offer complimentary dental consultations. The consultation will include an oral exam, a demonstration on how to brush your pet's teeth, a discussion on nutrition and a bag of dental food. We do not charge for these consultations — it is our way of promoting pet dental awareness. To book a complimentary consultation, please talk to one of our veterinary health care team at: (780) 458 6051



Tudor Glen Veterinary Hospital, 1005 Tudor Glen Place, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 3V4

Tel: (780) 458-6051 / Fax: (780) 458-0869

www.tudorglenvethospital.ca

