



ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of Animals Since 1957

For Immediate Release

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AHS HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS ... FOR PETS

(PHOENIX) – Halloween is right around the corner ... and it's no treat for pets! The Arizona Humane Society urges pet owners to remember these safety tips:

KEEP PETS INDOORS

- ✓ Confine cats and dogs to a secure room with food, water, toys, a litter box and bedding. Isolate pets from the often-frightening sights and sounds of trick-or-treaters.
- ✓ Pets may be frightened by costumed children at the door. That fear can lead to aggressive or protective behavior (snapping, growling) toward children in costumes.
- ✓ The continued opening/closing of the door provides an easy escape for a small pet. In the confusion, pet owners often don't see quick-darting pet as they make their escape into the night!
- ✓ Pets may become the victims of cruelty. Keep a close eye on pets during the Halloween season.

KEEP CANDY AWAY FROM PETS

- ✓ Candy can upset your pet's digestive system. Keep pets away from chocolate, which is toxic and can be fatal. Just a few ounces of chocolate can kill a 10-pound dog, as it can over-stimulate the neurological and cardiac systems. Candy wrappers and foils are a choking hazard to dogs, cats and domestic rabbits.

MAKE SURE YOUR PET HAS CURRENT I.D.

- ✓ The Arizona Humane Society recommends a microchip, complemented by a collar and ID tag with a current address and telephone number. By law, dogs aged 4 months and older must have a current Maricopa County license.
- ✓ If your pet gets lost on Halloween, visit the AHS Second Chance Animal Hospital™ at 9226 N. 13th Ave., and both locations of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. Also, visit www.pets911.com.

DO NOT LET KIDS TAKE THE DOG WITH THEM 'TRICK-OR-TREATING'

- ✓ Children may have a difficult time handling a dog, especially if they're wearing a costume and carrying a bag of candy.
- ✓ Your dog may be frightened by costumed children or other strangers he meets on the street. He could show aggressive behavior or escape a child's grip, run away and/or dart into traffic.

THINK TWICE ABOUT PUTTING A COSTUME ON YOUR PET

- ✓ If your pet is frightened or uncomfortable, don't make him wear a costume. Consider dressing up your pet for photos, then promptly removing the costume.
- ✓ Be sure the costume fits. Too big? Your pet may get caught up in it and suffocate or be strangled. Too small? It's too tight, and may interfere with your pet's circulation or breathing.
- ✓ Never leave a pet in a costume unattended.
- ✓ Don't select a costume that restricts airways, impairs vision or hearing, or has buttons, bows or other choking hazards.

USE CAUTION AROUND 'JACK-O-LANTERNS' AND OTHER DECORATIONS

- ✓ The flame inside a pumpkin may attract curious pets who could get burned! Also, a pet may tip it over and spark a fire.
- ✓ Some decorations may pose a choking hazard for pets, or get stuck in a pet's intestines if ingested.

CALL THE AHS FOR HELP!

- ✓ To get help for a pet in distress or to report a suspected case of animal cruelty on Halloween (or any time) call the AHS for an Emergency Animal Medical Technician™ at (602) 997-7585. EAMTs are available to help pets in distress from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. 365 days of the year.