



Keep your Halloween spook free for your four-legged friends

Halloween is a fun holiday for humans, but it can be spooky for pets. Our pets can become confused and frightened with lots of visitors to your home and folks dressed up in costumes. So read on for some simple tricks ... and a few treats to keep your companions comfortable this October.

Watch those tasty treats: With trick or treating afoot, your pet will have access to candy and other sweet treats that might be harmful or even deadly. Ingredients in different types of candy and especially chocolate, are poisonous to pets. Make sure all candy is safely out of reach in an area your pet can't sneak a taste. Consider providing a yummy, pet-friendly treat for your cat or dog to enjoy while everyone is snacking on candy.

Creating a safe space: Halloween means lots of doorbell rings and visitors to your home. This can be stressful for both cats and dogs, and it's important to create a safe space for them to relax during the festivities. Include some of their favorite items in this space, bedding, toys, pet-friendly treats and water. Also, it's best if this space is away from the front door so they can't sneak out when trick or treaters visit.

Dressing up your pet: With a plethora of adorable pet costumes available around Halloween, it can be fun to dress your pet up, and while we love seeing these cute pics, we want to make sure it's a fun time for your best pal too. Make sure your pet is comfortable wearing the costume and that it won't restrict their ability to breathe, see or move. If they seem uncomfortable, consider opting for a cute Halloween-themed bandana instead. One thing to always make sure your pet is wearing is a collar and tag with current information and that they have an up-to-date microchip ID.

What to do if your pet gets lost: It's every pet owner's worst nightmare. Losing track of our pets can be a scary and stressful situation. However, being prepared and knowing what steps to take can help reunite you with your best pal in no time.

1. Start by making sure your pet is wearing a collar and tag with current information and that they have an up-to-date microchip ID. If your pet needs a microchip, consider visiting one of our upcoming [vaccine clinics](#).
2. Know where to look. Locate your local animal shelter where your pet might be taken should they be picked up by animal control or a good Samaritan. Visit or call the shelter to learn more about the pets they currently have in their lost and found areas and to file a missing pet report. Also, check your neighborhood Nextdoor and Facebook groups. You can also post a description and photo of your lost pet in these groups and encourage family and friends to share the post.
3. Licensing your pet is a great way to help them reconnect with you should they go missing. Pets licensed in Jefferson County have a higher chance of quickly being reunited with their owners, and proceeds from pet licensing help support the being done at Foothills Animal Shelter. Learn more here: [FoothillsAnimalShelter.org/license](https://www.foothillshill.com/foothillsanimalshelter.org/license).

Happy Spooky Halloween from all of us at Foothills Animal Shelter. Remember to treat yourself to a new best pal this holiday season. Visit us at [FoothillsAnimalShelter.org](https://www.foothillsanimalshelter.org) to see all the ghouls and goblins waiting to meet their new families.