



Media Release

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Easy Steps to a Peaceful, Safe Halloween for Pets

Halloween is one of the busiest times of the year at DoveLewis. We hope these tips will help prevent you and your pet from having an emergency.

Before and After Halloween:

- Keep all candy out of reach, not just chocolate! A lot of people know chocolate is dangerous to dogs, but so are other candies. Sugar can cause nasty gastrointestinal upset. Lollipop sticks, plastic parts and wrappers can cause intestinal obstruction and potentially rupture the intestines: That's a life-threatening emergency!
- Keep candles away from tails and toes.
- Keep decorative light strands away from curious puppies and kittens. One chewing session can be dangerous and possibly deadly.

Halloween Night:

- Keep your pets locked indoors and away from trick-or-treaters. Dogs especially may feel that their territory is being invaded by the constant onslaught of visitors. Keeping your dog in a secluded area of the house will help him stay calm and keep him from growling or possibly biting your visiting ghouls and goblins. It will also keep your pet from being able to dart outdoors.
- Do not take your dog along trick or treating. Even typically calm dogs may get spooked by excited, shrill voices and strange costumes.
- Make sure your dog has current, accurate & readable identification tags. If you have recently changed your address or phone number, update the ID immediately. If you haven't yet, take this opportunity to have your pet micro-chipped. Your veterinarian can help you with this easy procedure.

If you have a **black cat**, be especially careful about keeping it indoors on Halloween. Some people are superstitious about black cats and may try to scare or harm them.

Costumes are typically more fun for humans than animals:

An animal in a costume should NEVER be left alone and unsupervised. Some pets, if left alone in costume, may chew it up and ingest it. This could cause intestinal obstruction.

If the costumed pet escapes or is frightened away, the costume could get caught on trees, fences, or bushes, and your pet could get hurt.

The staff of DoveLewis Emergency & ICU Animal Hospital wants you and your pets to enjoy yourselves and be safe this Halloween!

DoveLewis is Portland's 24-Hour Emergency and ICU Animal Hospital, offering advanced veterinary care in a state-of-the-art facility in Northwest Portland. DoveLewis also shares several 100% donor-funded programs with the community including one of America's largest volunteer-based animal blood banks, an award-winning animal assisted therapy program, a nationally recognized pet loss support program offering five free group therapy sessions each month, 24-hour stabilizing care for lost, stray and wild animals and financial assistance for low income families and owners of abused pets.