

Humane Society of Elmore County News – 24 Oct ‘16  
Rea Cord  
Executive Director

Halloween brings lots of fun for us humans, but trick or treaters, candy & people in costumes have special risks for our pets. Candy may be tough on our waist lines but can sadly be deadly for our pets! Chocolate and the artificial sweetener Xylitol found in many candies can be toxic to pets not to mention the danger from swallowed candy wrappers & lollipop sticks! Please keep all candies safely out of reach of your pets and don't leave pets unattended with a big bowl of candy at the front door. Also please make sure your children are aware that their Halloween Candy should NOT be shared with their special furry friend. Perhaps make a special 'pet candy bowl' with small doggy or kitty treats that your children can safely share with them they have their own 'treats.'

Glow sticks are a more modern item that may help our children see better while out having fun but are something that should be kept safe from our pets. While the contents of most glow-sticks are non-toxic, they do have a very bitter taste and a pet that punctures a glow stick might salivate excessively and race around the house trying to escape the bad taste. Please keep glow sticks out of the reach of inquisitive dogs and cats.

What about costumes? What you may think is cute might be quite stressful to your pet. If you do dress up your pet, make sure the costume doesn't constrict its movement, hearing or breathing. Never leave a pet wearing a costume unattended and also check to make sure there are no dangling pieces that your pet could get caught in or chew on. And if your pet seems distressed then best to just nix the costume all together.

If you are having a party, probably best to keep your pets in a separate room so they won't become scared or even protective when they see humans in odd and scary costumes. This will also help protect them from being fed inappropriate food, treats and candy by kind, but uninformed party guests.

Please also keep your pets in another room or part of the house if you are opening your door for trick-or-treaters! It would be easy for a pet to escape and we certainly don't want a pet to be freaked out by scores of children in all manner of costumes resulting in either a lost pet or, worse, a bite. And make sure pets and 'candle lit' Halloween decorations are not left alone to help prevent an accidental fire!

Last, please make sure your pet has identification in the event it gets away from you. Pets with identification often never have to even come to a shelter as the finder can reunite the pet with the owner directly. Need a Pet ID Tag? We can make custom ID tags at the shelter in just a few minutes and have many choices of shapes, sizes and colors, to include Alabama and Auburn Tags! Prices range from \$7-\$12. Stop by the shelter at 255 Central Plank Road in Wetumpka anytime Mon-Fri 8-5 and Sat 8-3 and we will be happy to make as many tags as you need!

We hope everyone has a Spooktacular Halloween week this week and come by to check out our 'Bootiful' Pets and staff costumes on Mon, 31 Oct – we will be celebrating Halloween all day long!