



# PRESS RELEASE Hudson Valley Humane Society

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## -- Halloween Safety Tips for Pets --

October 20, 2005 Pomona, NY: Halloween is a fun day for the whole family, but for dogs and cats, it can be a different story. Here are holiday guidelines to keep the family pooch and kitty happy, safe, and secure:

- § **Keep outdoor cats indoors** for a few days before and after the 31<sup>st</sup>. Sadly, cats have been the victims of terrible Halloween pranks and vicious acts (**dogs** too).
- § **People costumes** can be scary for dogs and cause a different reaction than you might expect from your pet. A dog may become startled by masks and kids in costume flailing their arms. So if your pooch seems a bit uncomfortable around the holiday hoopla, put your pet in a quiet room in your home, one that is away from the general traffic at the front door. A radio might help calm your pet too.
- § **Pet costumes** are cute if the animal will tolerate it. Be certain it fits well and does not impede the animal's ability to see, walk, breath, bark, etc. An unhappy dog is a snippy one.
- § Check that no **chocolate** gets into Fido. Chocolate can be toxic for dogs so err on the conservative and be sure your dog does not indulge. Canines lack the ability to metabolize caffeine, and in small breeds, a little piece of chocolate can be fatal. If you have a medium or large dog do not discount this advice, they can be seriously affected by consuming chocolate too.
- § **Candy** can cause an upset stomach ... keep it out of your dog's reach. Check that trick-or-treaters have not dropped any along the pathway to and from your front door. Dogs that ingest candy (and the wrappers) will end up with diarrhea and/or vomiting and may need to see the veterinarian.
- § Be careful when **opening the front door** so your pet does not dart outside. Make sure they have a **proper ID tag**. Free ID tags are available from the HVHS. Call 845-354-3124 for additional information or stop by 200 Quaker Road in Pomona from 9am-noon and 1-5pm, 7 days/week.
- § **Burning candles** are pretty, but can cause serious injury if a curious kitty topples it.

This is a public service message from the Hudson Valley Humane Society wishing our community a Halloween filled with fun! For further information, please visit our website at [www.hvhumane.org](http://www.hvhumane.org) or call us at 845-354-3124.

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The HVHS is a private, tax-exempt organization, chartered as a society for prevention of cruelty to animals in New York State and has cared for abandoned, unwanted and abused animals in Rockland County since 1891.