

Halloween fun isn't limited to goblins and ghouls of the human variety — your dog can safely get in on the festivities, too.

Written by [Caitlin Ultimo](#) ✓



A dog ID tag is one way to ensure your lost dog comes home safely. [peanut_roaster/iStock/Thinkstock](#)

Whether you're interested in the tricks or the treats, Halloween is the perfect time for unleashing a little spooky fun. Dressing up, decorating and of course noshing on some sugary treats are just a few reasons why Halloween brings delight to the fall season. And if you love your dogs like I do — and want them to partake in anything enjoyable — it can be a great time to involve your pet and give him some special Halloween-ified attention.



CAITLIN ULTIMO

4 months ago

👍 1

👎 0

However, keeping your pet's safety in mind is of course a loving (borderline obsessive) pet owner's first concern. While the fall holiday is full of harmless fun, it brings along a few potential tricks that aren't so sweet for your dog (enter: toxic chocolate disguised in enticing wrappers and shapes!). Here are a few ideas for how your dog can enjoy All Hallow's Eve, along with the potential dog Halloween hazards to look out for, courtesy of Stephanie Liff, DVM and partner at Brooklyn Cares Veterinary Hospital in New York.

Trick For Treat

Halloween-themed games are tons of fun at child — and adult! — parties, and they can be just as entertaining for your dog. For a play on the door-to-door classic: Use one hand to conceal a small treat

93444

5289

Followers

Likes

POPULAR CATEG

- Active Cat (10)
- Adult Dog (32)
- Cat Behavior (36)
- Cat Life Stages (117)
- Cats (132)
- Dog Life Stages
- (128)
- Dog Wellbeing (63)
- Fido Fitness (13)

Good Eats For Dogs

(16)

Latest Dog Research

(2)

- Puppy (33)
- Senior Cat (31)
- Trending (63)
- Young Dog (32)
- Your Life (10)
- Your World (7)

TRENDING POST

and the other fist to hide a squeak toy. First, show your dog the treat and toy in your open hands. Once he's caught a glimpse, close the items in your hands, put your hands behind your back, and roll your fists around in a circle or stand up and spin around. Then put both fists out toward your dog, let him sniff them and open whichever one he seems most excited about. If it's the trick, throw the toy for him to fetch. If it's the treat, reward him with the yummy snack.

Most dogs also like going on a trick-or-treat [walk](#).

"I think most pets truly enjoy interacting in Halloween and are happy to accompany the family during trick or treating," Liff says. "Just note, sometimes pets are alarmed by unusual things, such as hats, masks, even tails on humans, so make sure to be on alert if your pet is out and about on the holiday."

I remember one time when we were kids, my brother was wearing a dinosaur shirt and my uncle's sheepdog chased him until he took cover in the bathroom! Needless to say, my brother came back out shirtless.

If you and your dog plan to be on candy patrol and stay in, there are a couple things to keep in mind as well. Many pets that aren't accustomed to having guests at the house and having the doorbell ring repeatedly can be quite [anxious](#) during trick or treating. They might even try to bite someone or run away. To ward off unwanted bites, Liff suggests keeping your dog away from the door. She also recommends keeping them on a leash to help prevent any four-legged escapees as you receive trick or treaters.

"If your pet is extremely anxious, talk to your veterinarian about keeping medication on hand to prevent undue anxiety," Liff says.

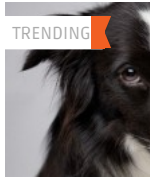
Doggie Dress Up

Perhaps one of the most fun parts of involving your dog in Halloween — for pet owners at least — is dressing your pup up in costume. These days, there are many Halloween costumes for dogs available for purchase. You can also make your own. Get creative!

"I once had a patient in vet school who broke his leg just before Halloween," Liff says. "He came for weekly bandage changes, so the week of Halloween his mom said they were dressing as pirates, so we bandaged his leg to look like a peg leg!"

While Halloween costumes for dogs are adorably hilarious, they do pose a few potential dangers that aren't so funny.

"Small attachments to costumes or other accessories can easily be swallowed and can cause intestinal obstruction, and face paint and hair dye can be toxic, so be sure to check labels for the safety of using them on your pets — and also make sure they are safe if ingested," Liff suggests.



Science Proves When His Owner

Written by [Amanda Fe](#)



Cat & She's Trick

by [Chris](#)



Dog I Visit Hosp Expl

by [Chris](#)



Make sure your dog's costume doesn't have any small attachments he could swallow. Courtesy of Melissa Kauffman

Pumpkin For All

Dogs can be just as eager to get their paws on some Halloween candy as the rest of us, but chocolate and other goodies, such as raisins, can be toxic to pets.

"By far the most common hazard pets encounter during Halloween is ingestion of toxicities," Liff says.

"Be sure to keep Halloween candy out of reach of pets while you are handing it out."

While the hauls of Halloween candy may be off limits, your pet can indulge in a treat all his own. Try baking up some easy pumpkin peanut butter treats in festive shapes just for him.

My two pups love this basic recipe that calls for 1/2 cup of natural peanut butter, 1 cup of 100 percent pure pumpkin puree (canned) and 1 3/4 cups of whole-wheat flour.

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, stir together peanut butter and pumpkin and then stir in the flour, 1/4 cup at a time. Roll the dough out between two sheets of parchment paper to 1/4-inch thick. Use a cookie cutter to cut out the dough, and then place on the prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes and let cool completely.

Article Categories: **Lifestyle · Your Life**

LEAVE A COMMENT

Name:*

Email:*

Comment:*

Submit Comment

[about us](#)
[advertise with us](#)
[privacy policy](#)
[terms of service](#)
[contact us](#)
[press](#)
[faq](#)

[pet search](#)
[breeds](#)
[pet care +](#)
[videos](#)

Like us? Spread the word:



© Copyright Petcha 2015. All Rights Reserved.