

Pumpkin spice and everything nice, it's almost Halloween! And while our favorite pups like joining in on the festivities, there are certain dangers lurking about for our four-legged friends.



But keeping your pets safe on Halloween doesn't have to be tricky! Here are some simple tips to remember to keep your pet safe this holiday.

Keep the sweets away from your sweetie!



Most people know **chocolate** can be toxic to dogs and cats, but candies of all kinds can be dangerous to your pets. Ingesting any of the following Halloween treats can cause potential toxicity or cause them to choke:

- Chocolate
- Gum and sugar-free candies (xylitol)
- Jawbreakers and lollipops
- Raisins



Did
you
know...

Amount of theobromine per ounce



White
Chocolate

0.25 mg/oz



Milk
Chocolate

58 mg/oz



Dark
Chocolate

130 mg/oz



Baker's
Chocolate

393 mg/oz

Chocolate contains **caffeine** and a chemical called **theobromine** which dogs and cats cannot metabolize. The darker or more bitter the chocolate, the more theobromine present. And the smaller your dog or cat, the less they need to ingest to produce potential toxicity.

It's not just treats that can cause problems for pets. Wrappers and treat bags can potentially cause frights too. Ingesting wrappers or bags can lead to choking, foreign body obstructions, and possible surgery.

These bags and wrappers can also turn into suffocation hazards in minutes! A pet rummaging for crumbs can easily get their head stuck in the bag's opening and **without assistance** suffocation can result.





CHOCOLATE



CARAMEL
APPLES



SUGAR-FREE
CANDY



CANDY
CORN



MACADAMIA
NUTS



Don't forget to
stash the trick-
or treat stash
and keep candy
bowls and trash
out of pet's
reach!



Costumes Are Optional!

Pets in Halloween costumes are adorable, but not every dog or cat likes wearing them.

Remember, no matter how cute your pet looks dressed as baby Yoda, costumes are optional. Forcing a nervous pet to wear a costume can cause anxiety which may lead to a night of tricks instead of treats.



Make sure costumes are pet friendly!

Children's Halloween costumes aren't designed for pet's needs. Many of them have objects pets can chew or eat leading to GI upset or foreign body obstructions. They may also have ties or lace that could lead to choking or strangulation.

If you chose to dress up your pet, be sure to keep a close eye on them. If you must leave the house remember to remove your pet's costume first!



And if your pet likes
to dress up...



...be sure to bring them
by and show them off!



Decorations can be dangerous!

No Halloween is complete without scary decorations! But the frightening décor can become a nightmare for pets. Like with small children, dogs and cats like to put new things into their mouths. Common decorations that could spell trouble for pets include:

- Electrical wires
- Fake spider webs & spiders
- Glow sticks
- Candles/flames





Be sure to secure all wires to prevent electrical burns or shock and keep decorations out of pets reach. Accidental ingestion can potentially lead to GI upset or surgery.

And don't forget those super scary jack-o'-lanterns! Flameless candles or LED lights are a great alternative.

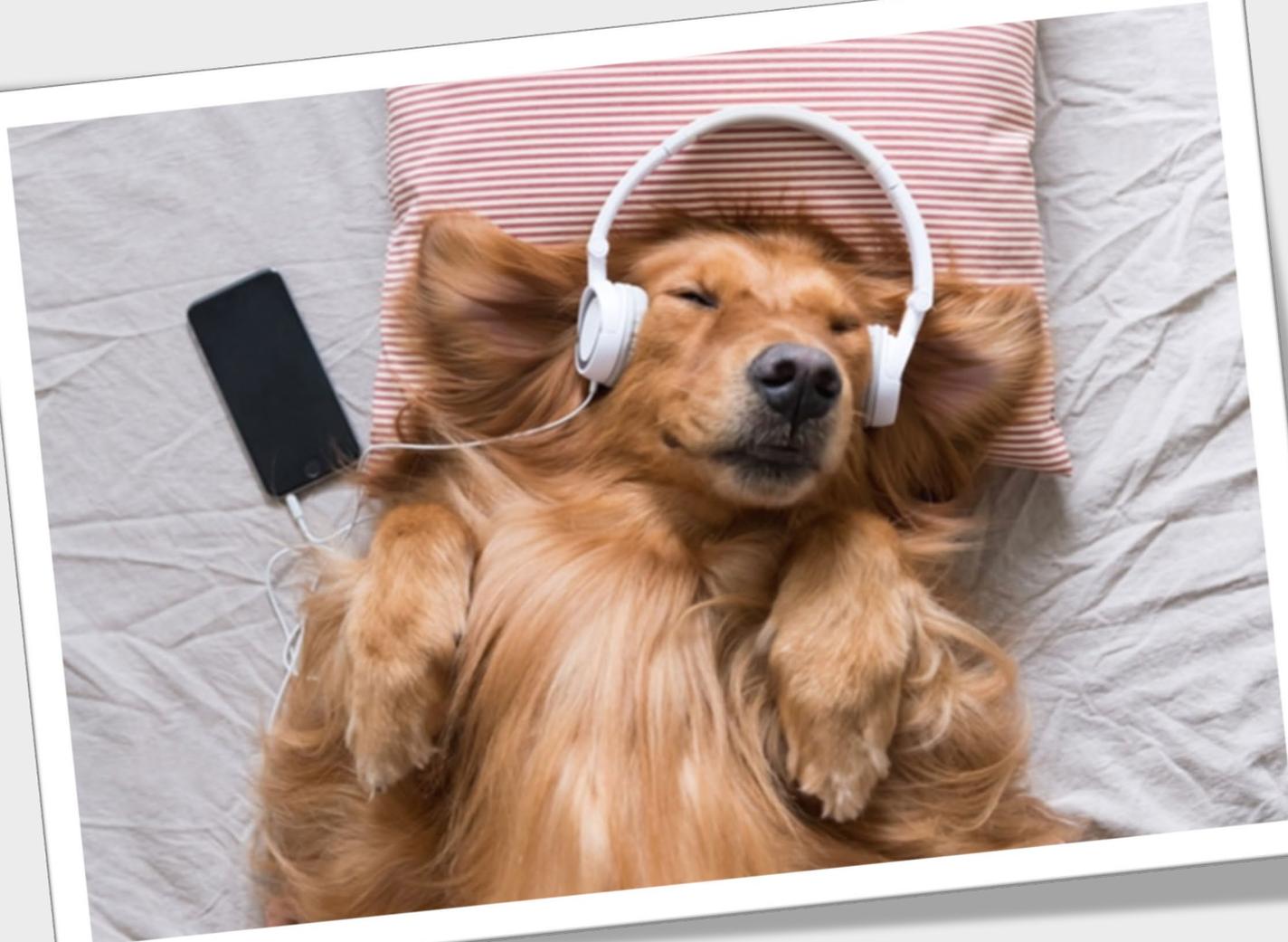


Halloween can be scary

If you live in a large neighborhood or are a popular stop on the trick-or-treat route, a ringing doorbell will bring a parade of princesses, superheroes, and other Halloween guests all night!

While some pets love visitors, others may get anxious and hide, experience GI upset, become aggressive, or even run away.





Do you have a pet who is more of an introvert and costumes might not be their thing? Create a safe place for your pet and check on them frequently.

Is your pet a runner? Be sure to keep proper and up to date identification on your pet or have them microchipped.

You can always speak with a staff member about ways to help with anxiety before trick-or-treating starts.