



# Halloween Safety Tips for Pets

*Keep Your Pet's Brain & Body Safe This Spooky Season*

Halloween is a time for spooky fun, costumes, and sweet treats, but for our furry friends, it can bring unexpected hazards. At Specialists in Companion Animal Neurology (SCAN), we care not only about your pet's body but also their brain health. Here's how to make this Halloween safe and stress-free for your four-legged companions.

## Keep Candy Out of Reach

Chocolate, xylitol, and other sweet treats can be toxic to pets. Even small amounts can cause neurological issues, seizures, or gastrointestinal distress. Make sure all candy, especially chocolate and sugar-free gum, is stored securely and out of paw's reach.

## Watch Out for Decorations

Decorations might look harmless, but they can pose risks:

- Strings, ribbons, and wires can cause choking or intestinal blockages if ingested.
- Pumpkins and candles can tip over, causing burns or injuries.

Consider using battery-operated candles and keeping decorations high or behind barriers.

## Choose Pet-Friendly Costumes

Dressing up pets can be fun, but not all costumes are safe:

- Avoid costumes that restrict movement, breathing, or vision.
- Ensure no small parts can be chewed off and swallowed.
- If your pet seems stressed or anxious, skip the costume, comfort is more important than cuteness!

## Keep Pets Indoors During Trick-or-Treating

Excited children, flashing lights, and strangers can make pets anxious. Keep your pets in a quiet, safe room with familiar toys and bedding while the doorbell rings repeatedly. This reduces stress and prevents accidents or escapes.

## Monitor for Neurological Signs

Halloween treats or stress can sometimes trigger neurological events, especially in pets with pre-existing conditions. Watch for:

- Unsteady walking or stumbling
- Head tilting or circling
- Seizures or unusual tremors

If you notice any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Treat Alternatives

Instead of traditional candy, consider pet-safe treats or engaging toys. You can also create Halloween-themed enrichment activities to keep pets stimulated and happy without risk.

**Bonus Tip:** Use this season as a reminder to update your pet's microchip information and ID tags—you never know when an accidental escape might happen during festivities.