

Humane Society Offers HOWL-o-Ween Pet Tips

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Halloween is a holiday of fun and make-believe for humans but can be a traumatic and even dangerous time for your pets. The shelter is inundated with stray animals and would like to remind the community to keep their pets safely contained and wearing identification on Halloween.

The Humane Society of Central Oregon would like to offer some common-sense tips to help you protect your pets:

- Don't leave your pets out in the yard on Halloween: your pet may be vulnerable to being teased, injured or even stolen.
- Trick-or-treat candies are not for pets: chocolate is poisonous, and foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed.
- Be careful of pets around a lit pumpkin: curious pets may knock it over and cause a fire or injury.
- If you dress up your dog, make sure the costume isn't constricting, annoying or unsafe. Make sure the costume provides your pet with good vision, ability to walk, sit and lie-down. Watch your pet at all times when dressed-up.
- Don't dress the dog in costume unless you know he likes it. If your pet does not like being dressed-up it can be confusing and stressful.
- Most dogs should be kept in a separate room during trick-or-treat visiting hours or Halloween parties; too many strangers in costumes can be scary for a dog.
- Be careful your cat or dog doesn't dash out through an open door.
- Have current identification on your pet for a quick and safe return.

While this can be a fun time for people and pets, remember that your pets are depending upon you to keep them safe from the dangers that this holiday brings. If your companion gets scared and runs away from home, remember to call the Humane Society at 382-3537 immediately. Stray animals are posted on the shelter's website at www.hsco.org.

The Humane Society of Central Oregon is located on 27th Street just south of Reed Market Road in Bend. The shelter is open Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pirate Costume is comfortable & allows dog to see and move. Avoid costumes that are complicated, restrictive, and potentially dangerous.

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