



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

KEEP YOUR KITTY SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween is just around the corner. And though it can be a fun time of year for kids of all ages, it's also a time to focus on keeping your pet safe during the holiday.

Halloween decorations can be quite tempting to kitties and other animals, so always hang them high. If ingested, a decoration can cause serious complications, including toxicity and intestinal obstruction.

If your decorations require electrical cords, they should be hung out of reach or wrapped with inexpensive cord wrap from an office supply store. Chewing on electric cords can burn your pet's mouth or tongue, or cause electrocution.

Halloween candles can cause serious burns or create a fire hazard if they are knocked over by your pet. Use a flameless candle to light up your carved pumpkin. If you plan to use wax candles in the house, light them only in rooms where your pet doesn't have access—and never leave lit candles unattended.

Pay special attention to Halloween candy and treats. Candy, especially chocolate, as well as other sugary treats can cause life-threatening illness if eaten by a furry family member, whether feline or canine. Make sure that all sweets are stored well out of reach. And be sure to dispose of candy wrappers in a covered trash can, as a wrapper's smell, taste, and shine can be irresistible to a pet. If ingested, candy wrappers can cause intestinal obstruction.

If your kitty is allowed to go outdoors, it's important to keep him or her inside the week leading up to Halloween, as well as on Halloween night. Cruel and harmful pranks

may be played on animals, especially black cats; many black cats end up missing on Halloween night.

On Halloween night, your pet may be frightened by the constant ringing of the doorbell along with unknown people in costumes. Confining him or her in a closed room or crate can help decrease stress, and will keep your pet from running out a constantly-opening door. (And should your pet somehow escape, it's important that they are wearing identification tags as well as being microchipped.)

Dispose of pumpkins as soon as Halloween's over. After sitting on your porch or in your window for many days, a pumpkin's interior will begin to grow bacteria. If your cat or dog samples a rotting pumpkin, he or she can become very ill.

Please contact us if you have questions about keeping your home safe for your pet during the holidays. And, if you suspect your kitty has ingested something he or she shouldn't have, contact us immediately.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY (FURRY AND HUMAN) FROM PARASITES

Even though the weather will soon be turning cooler, pesky parasites such as fleas, heartworms, and intestinal worms can still affect your kitty—or you!

Parasites are not only annoying to you and your cat, they can also spread disease and, if left untreated, may lead to serious medical problems. Fortunately, there are a number of easy-to-administer monthly topical medications to help control these pests and protect your family. During your next visit to the Sacramento Cat Hospital, please ask us for more information.

OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

During the month of October, **microchip your kitty for just \$36.50 — a \$25 discount off the regular price of \$61.50!** Stop by our front desk for additional information or to schedule your appointment.



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