

Welcome

Fall is upon us, so the topic of this month's newsletter is "Pet dangers to avoid during the fall and winter months. If you have any questions or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net



Top Halloween Tips for Pet Owners

- 1) **Lock candy safely away.** Kids love to stash candy in their rooms, but a dog's keen sense of smell will lead him to even the most cleverly hidden treasure. Contact a veterinarian right away if your pet does get into Halloween candy, especially if it contains chocolate or is sugar free and contains xylitol.
- 2) **Don't leave glow sticks lying around.** Glow sticks are used to help keep kids safe while they are out in the dark. Pets (especially cats) find these glow sticks to be a lot of fun as well.

While most of them are labeled as non-toxic, they do have an extremely bitter taste. Some pet owners have been known to have seen their pets drooling and racing around the house. A little treat or sip of milk will usually stop the taste reaction.

- 3) **Keep your pet identified and visible.** There are a lot of extra people on the streets at Halloween, and that combined with strange costumes can spook pets and cause them to bolt. If you take your pet out after dark, make sure he or she wears a reflective collar and is securely leashed. And make sure your pet has proper identification on the collar.
- 4) **Calm your pet.** Even pets that are kept indoors may experience intense anxiety over the large number of strangely dressed visitors. Keeping your pet away from trick or treaters may do the trick, but if you think more will be needed be sure and speak to your vet well in advance about options to help calm your pet.
- 5) **Check those costumes.** Costumes can be fun for the whole family. If you are planning on dressing up your best buddy, ensure that the costume fits well and isn't going to slip and tangle the pet or cause a choking hazard if chewed on. Never leave a

costumed pet unattended.



More autumn dangers for your pet

- 1) **Antifreeze.** Every year more than 10,000 dogs and cats are accidentally poisoned with automotive antifreeze. Pets are attracted to the sweet taste of ethylene glycol and one to two teaspoons will poison a cat and three tablespoons is enough to kill a medium sized dog.
- 2) **Allergies.** Fall weather can bring about a whole new set of allergies. Ragweed and mold are two big aggravates, along with grass and dust. Look for signs like scratching, biting, chewing, sneezing, coughing,

watery eyes, and hives and rashes.

- 3) **Arthritis.** Cold weather can aggravate arthritis caused by inflamed joints. If your dog or cat is limping, having trouble moving, jumping, or sitting, moving slower than usual, or whimpering when he moves, he may be suffering from seasonal arthritis.
- 4) **Mushrooms.** Many wild mushrooms are toxic to dogs. Always watch for mushrooms in areas where you walk your dogs or where they run and play. Be especially cautious of parasol-shaped mushrooms and all small brown mushrooms. Symptoms of mushroom poisoning can range from mild vomiting and diarrhea to severe digestive problems to complete liver failure.
- 5) **Compost pile.** Your compost pile in your back yard is also dangerous to your pet. The decomposing organic material could contain mycotoxins that can cause hyperthermia, agitation, excessive panting or drooling, and even seizures.
- 6) **Rodenticides.** In fall and winter, mice and rats come flocking indoors to warmer surroundings. Putting out rodenticides gets rid of rodents but could also be fatal to your dog or cat. There are four different types of poison and each has the potential to kill your pet: anticoagulants, cholecalciferol,

bromethalin, and phosphides.

- 7) **Candy.** Everyone knows that chocolate is toxic to dogs. Especially the baking variety, but so are raisins and the sugar free sweetener xylitol. Be extra cautious on Halloween where pets can get into bags of candy. Wrappers and sticks from lollipops can also pose a threat causing intestinal blockages.
- 8) **Thanksgiving.** You may have the urge to share your feast with your pet. This is ok in moderation. Just check the list of toxic foods for pets before you treat them. Avoid fatty and greasy foods that can trigger pancreatitis in dogs and cats, and never feed them poultry bones. They easily splinter and can cause serious damage if swallowed.
- 9) **Cold weather.** Chilly temps can also pose a threat to your pet. Indoor animals don't develop a thick double coat like outdoor pets and should not be left outside unattended for any period of time. Consider buying a sweater for your dog for walks or booties to keep their paws safe from ice and rock salt. Also be cautious around ice, your pet could easily slip and rip a ligament or break a bone.
- 10) **Decorations.** Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas decorations can all be dangerous to your pet. Ornaments, tinsel, plants, costumes, and other decorations should all be kept out of your pet's reach.



If you have any questions or comments, please email us at 3lburn@sbcglobal.net or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!

