




# HAPPIER HALLOWEEN HOUNDS

Consider the following to help our dogs be safer and less stressed during this spooky time...

- ◇ If possible, walk your dog before dark on Halloween night to avoid trick or treaters.
- ◇ Think about fun ways to tire them out in the safety of your home. This could be with food toys, training, or search games.
- ◇ Be careful around all the extra sweets and chocolates that may be lying about as these can be toxic to dogs (and cats!).
- ◇ Keep costumes for people. They can be dangerous or simply annoying to your pet. Why not just put on a festive bandana around their neck to keep all happy.

The doorbell always ringing plus lots of young and strange looking visitors can be scary for dogs. This can result in escape attempts or unexpected aggression. Here are some tips that may help:

- ◇ Prepare lots of things to keep your dog busy, quiet and happy for when trick or treaters call.
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- ◇ Separate dogs from the entrance by putting them in secure crate, or room away from the front door, or maybe using a stair gate. Whatever suits them best and that they are used to.
- ◇ Make sure dogs and cats have a safe and comfortable space to go to if they may be worried by people at the door. This could be their bed or crate, ideally away from front windows or the door.
- ◇ If your dog is really worried by people and may not cope with trick or treaters you could put a sign on your gate saying *'Nervous dog. Please don't knock on the door. Please take sweets from the box'* and leave a box of treats in the front garden for children.

