

Halloween is supposed to be a night filled with costumes, candies and company – three things that most people can handle pretty easily. But those 3Cs of fun for people can become 3Cs of fright for Fido or Fluffy. Take a few moments now to make sure the four-legged members of your family are safe and sound.

Costumes

Don't force Fido to wear a costume unless you are positive your pet enjoys it. If you do choose to put your pet in costume, make sure it fits properly and doesn't interfere with its ability to move, walk, breathe and bark or meow. Keep your family's people costumes in mind, too. Pets explore with their mouths and you don't want your Halloween festivities to turn into a night in the veterinary emergency department with a dog or cat that has eaten fringe or something sparkly off little Becky's princess costume. Remember your home's "costumes" as well. Keep candles out of reach of pets; and, while they aren't necessarily toxic, pumpkin or corn eaten off the decorations on the front porch may not sit well with your pet's stomach.

Candies

Candy corn probably won't sit too well in your pet's stomach either. And chocolate is a definite no-no. Keep your bowl of treats for your pint-sized visitors out of sight of your pets. Make sure to keep your children's candy stash away from your pets as well. Beware of treats that contain the sugar substitute xylitol, which can be especially dangerous – if not fatal – to your dog or cat.

Company

Whether you are celebrating with a blowout bash at your home, or entertaining tons of tots ringing your doorbell for three hours straight, all the extra people and noise could be frightening for your pet. Keep it in a separate room or in its crate. The constant movement to and from the front door may cause your pet to become anxious. You don't want it to scoot outside while you're treating some kids. This is also a good time to make sure your pet's tags on its collar are correct and up-to-date. Or invest in a microchip.

No matter how you choose to celebrate All Hallows Eve, taking a few extra steps will make sure it's a fun night for your entire family.