

INDIAN TRAIL ANIMAL HOSPITAL MUTTROPOLITAN



OCTOBER 2022 // ISSUE 6

TAKE THE HOWL OUT OF HALLOWEEN

October is a month of spooky sights and sounds, not only for us, but for our pets as well. Strangers, doorbells and loud noises are all things that can increase fear and anxiety in our pets. But there are things you can do to make Halloween enjoyable for you both.

Even though your pet is your best friend, they may be frightened by how you look in a costume, especially with a mask. If you are planning to dress up this year, make sure you introduce your pet to your costume before you put it on, so he or she can get used to the scent and what it looks like.

Want your pet to dress up with you as well? Follow the same method – introduce them slowly to the costume, allowing them to get comfortable, before you attempt to put it on. Give treats the whole time while you slowly try on each piece of the costume. Don't force your pet to participate if they are uncomfortable.

If the doorbell is your biggest source of anxiety, try disconnecting it and using a motion sensor to alert you to trick-or-treaters instead.

Remember: Don't leave candy unattended! Ideally, keep them away from your pet in a place they can't reach. Many candies that will be passed out this year are toxic for animals.



OCTOBER FEAR FREE TIPS

- Make a safe haven for your pet in a quiet room with their favorite toys, treats and bed. Diffusing pheromones, like Feliway or Adaptil (or even an article of your clothing) nearby are also a great idea.
- Keep your pet in another room if they tend to dash for the door when it is opened.
- Music, or a white noise machine, can help drown out the sound of loud trick-or-treaters outside your home.
- If the above suggestions aren't enough, talk to your veterinarian about taking a pharmaceutical approach to managing your pets anxiety.

For more, check out Fear Free's special [website for pet owners:](https://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com)
fearfreehappyhomes.com



FUN FACTS ABOUT SPOOKY ANIMALS

Cats, particularly those with black fur, have long been associated with witches and other evil entities and are the least likely to be adopted due to these superstitions. However, some cultures celebrate and even worship black cats, like the ancient Egyptian goddess Bastet.

Bats have earned a spooky reputation due to shapeshifting nature of the vampire Dracula. But bats play an important role in the food chain, as pollinators of many plants, just like bees.

Spider webs are a staple Halloween decoration and were at one time thought to use magic to weave those intricate and beautiful webs. Though many people find them frightening, you can learn to have a symbiotic relationship with our eight-legged friends by allowing their webs to keep pests away from your home.

For this and more, visit thedodo.com/dodowell/Halloween-animals

Send us your pet costume pictures!

Do you have a pet that loves Halloween, or just dressing up? Send us your pictures – we would love to see them! We may even feature them on our website or Facebook page.

Don't have a costume or have a pet that doesn't tolerate clothing? How about a jack-o-lantern!

Send us your pictures at:

info@indiantrailvet.com

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” – Margaret J. Wheatley

Happy Trails to Brews

Located in the shopping plaza nearby Indian Trail Animal Hospital, this is a great place to visit. Hang out on their dog friendly patio if you're looking for a place to relax with your pet.



Higher Ground Sanctuary

A rescue home for animals of all shapes and sizes, this sanctuary helps pets find their forever homes, whether it's to stay peacefully at the sanctuary or be adopted out to loving families! This non-profit organization focuses on humane education and creating opportunities to promote rescue culture. There are currently kitten and puppies looking for their fur-ever homes!

Learn more here!



HOW TO PREVENT HALLOWEEN HOWLS FROM YOUR PET



Halloween is a frightful holiday to begin with, making the occasion anything but Fear Free for your pet. However, even amidst all the spooky spectacles, there are still ways you can reduce anxiety and create a Fear Free Happy Home for your best friend. Give these tips a try and get even more information on creating a Fear Free Happy Home at fearfreehappyhomes.com.



Comfy Costumes

While some pets might enjoy dressing up, others would prefer not to wear a costume. To identify your pet's comfort level with dressing up, watch their body language. If their head and tail are down or they are pawing to get the costume off, dressing up is not for them. If they don't mind a costume, make sure you try the costume on well in advance of the holiday to check the fit and safety.



The New Trunk & Treat Option

Consider organizing a Trunk & Treat event in your community parking lot where children can safely trick or treat from car to car and your pets remain safely at home. You can even transform the end of your driveway or sidewalk into the perfect place to hand out treats without disturbing your pets.



Staycation

Stay in tune with your pet's stress levels. If your pet is less social, consider creating a pet-safe room with appropriate treats, toys, and favorite items. Prepare ahead of the holiday by letting them become familiar with their safe space. On Halloween, plan to let them into the room an hour or so prior to trick-or-treaters arriving.

Ditch the Doorbell

With so much action at the front door, your pet's mood can range from territorial to curious. You might consider covering up the doorbell and opting for a motion-sensor decoration to alert you before trick-or-treaters reach the door. Even for friendly pets, it is a good idea to keep them on a leash or utilize their crate while you tend to trick-or-treaters.

Sights & Sounds

Sound is a major part of Halloween. Decorations often have a scary sound component, and then there's the stream of trick-or-treaters knocking or ringing the doorbell. In addition to new sounds, new sights often carry a fright for pets. Some pets freak out at the sight of their owner in a mask or costume. Let them get familiar with your costume and keep treats handy to condition pets to associate what might be scary with something good.



Made possible by



Find a Fear Free Certified Professional and learn more about creating a Fear Free Happy Home at fearfreehappyhomes.com!