



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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10/25/12

For Immediate Release

While Halloween can be a lot of fun for both kids and adults, the City of Chico Animal Services wants to remind pet owners that Halloween can be a frightening and potentially dangerous time for your pet. Taking some common sense precautions will ensure the safety and comfort of both you and your pet.

Keep Halloween treats away from pets. Chocolate - especially dark chocolate - and candy sweetened with xylitol is toxic to dogs, as are raisins and grapes. If you suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, call your veterinarian immediately or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888)426-4435. Beside the candy itself, pets often ingest sweet treats with the wrapper or with small plastic parts like a lollipop stick still attached. This can cause abdominal problems including obstruction or rupturing of the intestines, a life threatening condition. If you'd like to treat your pets for Halloween, choose treats that are specifically made for pets.

If you decorate for Halloween, make sure all wires and cords are out of reach of your pet to avoid burns, cuts or even electrical shock. Use extreme caution with candles. A wagging tail or curious cat can easily tip over a candle causing burns or starting a fire.

Thinking about a costume for your pet this Halloween? "Make sure your pet likes dressing up," says Tracy Mohr, Animal Services Manager for the City of Chico, "and try it on ahead of time to make sure the costume fits and your pet will tolerate it. Make sure the costume does not restrict your pet's movements, breathing, sight, or hearing, and that there are no small, dangling or easily chewed-off pieces that they could choke on. Check the costume frequently to make sure it has not twisted or that the pet has not gotten tangled, and never leave your pet unattended in a costume."

Although your pet may enjoy dressing up, they might be frightened by others, even by people they know, who are dressed in a costume. Some animals may become unexpectedly fearful or aggressive, even pets that are normally friendly and outgoing. Just the constant activity of the doorbell ringing and people at the door might be enough to upset a normally calm pet. If you find your pet becomes stressed, put them in a quiet place inside, away from all the activity.

Supervisor:

Watch Commander:

Prepared By: Tracy Mohr

Date/Time: 10/25/12

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Whether your pet is part of the activities or not, they should be kept indoors to prevent them from being chased, frightened or teased by trick-or-treaters, and possibly running away. Indoors, pets should be kept away from the front door so they don't accidentally dash out and become lost. Remember that some trick-or-treaters are afraid of dogs, so be prepared to move your dog to another room if necessary.

Even if your pet doesn't dress up for Halloween, your pet should always wear a properly fitting collar with identification tags. As an extra precaution, consider having your pet microchipped, and if already chipped, make sure the chip is registered and updated with your most current information.

With a little planning ahead and common sense, Halloween can be a fun time for your entire family, pets included. From the City of Chico Animal Services, have a safe and Happy Halloween.

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