



# Otonabee Animal Hospital

“Going the distance for you and your pet!”

(705) 743-4936 [www.otonabah.com](http://www.otonabah.com)

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## October 2017 Newsletter Hazardous Halloween!



Halloween, while a fun time for most of the family, can be a frightening, stressful & even dangerous time for our pets.

Whether planning to be out Trick or Treating, partying or staying at home handing out candies, our pets' safety & well-being should always take priority.

Continual doorbell ringing and oddly dressed strangers calling can be extremely stressful for a pet.

### **So what should I do?**

It is best to keep all pets safely inside in a quiet room, away from all the noise, excitement and frequently opening front door to completely avoid the chances of one of them getting scared, escaping and running away while the door is open. You can also have the television or radio on – this provides distraction and comfort for some pets.

Keep all treats out of your pets' reach – preferably in a sealed container – to avoid temptation and be doubly safe.

### **Chocolate danger!!**

**Chocolate** is highly poisonous to dogs. Chocolate ingestion often results in significant illness and can be fatal. The darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is to our canine friends. Chocolate is toxic because it contains theobromine – a naturally occurring stimulant found in the cocoa bean. It goes without saying then, that any & all Halloween candy should be kept safely where it cannot cause harm to your beloved pet, who doesn't know any better. Dogs in particular have a sweet tooth and can be tempted by candy or chocolate at any time – even if they have never touched it before!

### **What else?**

In addition to chocolate, **xylitol** – a common sugar substitute used in candy & gum – is toxic to dogs, causing a rapid release of the hormone insulin, and therefore a sudden and often life-threatening decrease in blood glucose.

**Raisins** (and grapes), another sweet treat often given out at Halloween are also toxic to dogs – doubly so when wrapped in delicious chocolate!!

**Candy wrappers** can also be damaging to the digestive system, potentially even causing life threatening blockages if enough are eaten (most dogs don't bother to unwrap their plunder!)

*Glow sticks & jewellery can cause pain & irritation in the mouth when chewed and pet costumes can cause discomfort and stress to some pets – if your pet will be wearing a costume, make sure it is properly fitting & doesn't restrict vision, movement or breathing. Also be cautious of any small parts that might be ingested – some can lead to serious poisoning!*

For more information on Halloween poisons & hazards, please visit Pet Poison Helpline:  
<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-owners/seasons/halloween>

**IF YOUR DOG, CAT OR FERRET HAS (OR YOU SUSPECT THAT THEY MAY HAVE) EATEN ANYTHING HARMFUL, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VETERINARY CLINIC IMMEDIATELY.**

