

# Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue



## Golden Rule Training

### Halloween Dog Safety Tips

#### Candy

Keep dogs out of the candy bowl and dispose of candy wrappers before your pets can get to them. Candy wrappers can cause choking or intestinal obstruction. Note: Chocolate contains theobromine, which can cause nerve damage and even death in dogs. The darker the chocolate, the more concentrated it is, and the smaller the dog, the more lethal it can be.

Explain to everyone in your home (including kids) how dangerous treats are to pets. Take young children's candy supply and put it somewhere out of reach of pets. Caution children about leaving candy wrappers on the floor.

If you suspect your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance, please call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

#### Pumpkins and decorations

Pumpkins, hay and cornstalks make great decorations at this time of year but can produce gastrointestinal upset or even intestinal blockage if ingested by pets. Additionally, be sure to keep Halloween decorations safely out of reach, especially jack-o'-lanterns lighted by candles or electrical cords.

#### Costumes for Dogs

Costumes can be fun at Halloween, however, be sure your dog or cat is comfortable being in costume. Many pets love the extra attention, but for some it can cause undue stress. Halloween dog costumes should not limit your pet's ability to see, hear, breathe or move about freely. In addition, avoid costumes with small, dangling or easily chewed-off pieces and monitor your pet at all times when he or she is in costume.



### More Home Safety

- Even the most social pets may become stressed by a sudden influx of trick-or-treaters or partygoers ringing the doorbell. Know your dog or cat's limitations and provide a safe, quiet space for them to retreat if you plan on entertaining trick-or-treaters or party guests.
- Take care that your pets do not try to make a break for the door while you are greeting trick-or-treaters. If that should happen, proper identification can help ensure your dog or cat returns home.
- Walk your dog before trick-or-treaters start their visits. Keep a firm grip on the leash;

many dogs are frightened by people in costumes and walking them before the activity begins may help relieve any anxiety.

- Find a secure place in your home to keep your dogs, especially if you are giving out candy to trick-or-treaters. Many dogs get loose when the door opens, and the presence of little (and big) costumed people often scares animals, increasing the chance dogs will run away or are hit by cars.
- Place a dog gate in front of your front door to block access in case someone accidentally lets your pet out of the place where he is confined. Many dogs will run after trick-or-treaters.
- If your dog has any aggressive tendencies, fear of loud noises or a habit of excessive barking, place him in a quiet room as far away from your front door as possible at least a half-hour before trick-or-treaters arrive.
- Consider crating your pet, which can make him feel more secure and reduce chances of accidental escapes. Provide chew toys, a favorite blanket, or a piece of clothing with your scent on it to comfort your animal. You can also play soft music or a recording of soothing sounds.
- If you want to have your dog near the door to greet visitors, keep him on leash. Pets may become stressed by holiday activities and unwelcome interruptions in routine. A nervous dog might feel threatened and growl, lunge or bite.
- Keep dogs indoors. It is not a good idea to leave dogs out in the yard with all this strange activity. In addition to the parade of holiday celebrants frightening and agitating them, there have been reports of taunting, poisonings and pet thefts. In addition, they are likely to bark and howl at the constant flow of treat or treaters.
- Make sure pets cannot reach candles, jack-o-lanterns, decorations or ornaments.
- If the animal is very high-strung, consult your vet about tranquilizing for the night.
- If you notice these symptoms of chocolate poisoning, go to your vet or an emergency vet right away because your pet's life may be in danger:

Excessive drooling  
Excessive urination  
Pupil dilation  
Rapid heartbeat  
Vomiting and diarrhea  
Hyperactivity  
Muscle tremors and seizures  
Coma



### **If Your Dog Eats Chocolate:**

[http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip\\_EatChocolate.php](http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_EatChocolate.php)

### **First Aid Kit and Guidance:**



Keep a pet First Aid Kit in your home and car. Take the one you keep in your car with you on trips with your pet. This webpage lists items to include:

[http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip\\_FirstAid.php](http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_FirstAid.php)

**CPR and Mouth-to-Snout Resuscitation:**

Print these life-saving brochures to have on hand!

<http://members.aol.com/henryhbk/acpr.html>

<http://www.rescuecritters.com/cpr.html>

**When traveling, you can find a nearby veterinarian using AAHA's Animal Hospital Locator:**

[http://www.healthypet.com/hospital\\_search.aspx](http://www.healthypet.com/hospital_search.aspx)

**With safety in mind, have a happy Halloween!**