

October 15, 2015

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What are you going to do before Oct. 31? Microchip your pet.

Every pet that comes through the Burleson Animal Shelter has a microchip before he/she leaves. Microchips and identification (collar, ID tag, rabies tag) are critical in finding your pet if it gets lost or taken over the Halloween weekend. The Burleson Animal Shelter offers microchips for \$15, regardless of where you live. You must provide proof of rabies vaccination to get the microchip.

Following is a list of the top tips for pet owners at Halloween.

- Don't feed your pets Halloween candy, especially if it contains chocolate or xylitol, a common sugar substitute found in sugar-free candies and gum. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning may include vomiting, diarrhea, rapid breathing, increased heart rate, and seizures. If you are going for healthier Halloween treat options, remember that grapes and raisins are also poisonous to dogs.
- Have you ever seen a dog meticulously remove the candy wrapper before gulping down the treat? Foil and cellophane wrappers can cause life-threatening bowel obstructions. If you walk your dogs, keep your eyes peeled the morning after Halloween. Trick or treaters may drop those precious treats on the grass, sidewalks and streets and your dogs would be more than happy to scoop up the sweet smelling morsels.
- Keep pets confined and away from the door during trick or treating. Strangers dressed in unusual costumes and yelling "Trick or Treat" can be scary for your four-legged family members. Confining your pets in a secure room away from the front door will prevent pets from darting out the door.
- Set up that litter box and keep your cats inside for several days before and for several days after Halloween.
- Keep lit candles and jack-o-lanterns out of the reach of your pets.
- Keep Halloween plants such as pumpkins and corn inaccessible. They are relatively non-toxic but can create stomach issues or intestinal blockage if your pets try to gulp down large pieces.

- Keep wires and electrical light cords out of reach of your pets. You don't want your pets to get a shock on Halloween.
- If you plan to put a costume on your pet, make sure it fits properly and is comfortable, doesn't have any pieces that can easily be chewed off, and doesn't interfere with your pet's sight, hearing, breathing, opening its mouth, or moving. Take time to get your pet accustomed to the costume before Halloween, and never leave your pet unsupervised while he/she is wearing a costume.
- And, keep glow sticks and glow jewelry away from your pets. Although the liquid in these products isn't likely toxic, it tastes really bad and makes pets salivate excessively and act strangely.

The Burleson Animal Shelter is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays. It is located at 775 SE John Jones Dr. To report a lost or found pet, go online at <http://www.burlesontx.com/requesttracker.aspx>; call 817-426-9283; or email animalshelter@burlesontx.com. Be sure to include all of your contact information and details about the pet you lost or found so that the Burleson Animal Shelter can facilitate a reunion.