



HALLOWEEN DOG SAFETY CHECKLIST

Tick each box before the doorbell starts ringing. Every item is sourced.

DOG ATE SOMETHING IT SHOULDN'T? CALL NOW.

YOUR VET / EMERGENCY VET

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL

(888) 426-4435

PET POISON HELPLINE

(855) 764-7661

Both helplines are US-based, open 24/7; a consultation fee may apply. Don't try home remedies unless a vet or poison control tells you to.



CANDY & CHOCOLATE UP HIGH

Chocolate in all forms, especially dark or baking chocolate, can be very dangerous for dogs. Keep the candy bowl and trick-or-treat bags out of reach.

ASPCA • MERCK VET MANUAL



NO SUGAR-FREE CANDY OR GUM IN REACH

Xylitol, a sweetener in some sugar-free candy, gum and mints, can cause life-threatening low blood sugar and acute liver failure in dogs.

ASPCA • PET POISON HELPLINE



RAISINS & GRAPES OUT OF THE TREAT BAG

Grapes and raisins are toxic to dogs and can cause kidney injury. Watch for raisin snack boxes in the haul.

AVMA • PET POISON HELPLINE



WRAPPERS IN A LIDDED BIN

Swallowed foil or cellophane candy wrappers can cause an intestinal blockage and vomiting.

ASPCA • AAHA



GLOW STICKS AWAY FROM CHEWERS

Most are labeled non-toxic, but the liquid tastes very bitter: a bite can make a dog drool heavily or act strangely.

ASPCA • AVMA • PET POISON HELPLINE



LED LIGHTS IN THE PUMPKINS

A lit jack-o'-lantern is easy to knock over and can start a fire. Use battery LED candles, and keep those out of reach too.

ASPCA • CORNELL VET



MOLDY PUMPKIN GOES IN THE BIN

Pumpkins are relatively non-toxic but can upset a stomach. If your dog eats moldy pumpkin, call your vet.

ASPCA • CORNELL VET



COSTUME TEST RUN, OR SKIP IT

Only if your dog loves it. It must fit and not block sight, hearing, breathing, mouth or movement, with no chewable bits. Never leave a costumed dog alone.

ASPCA • AVMA



QUIET ROOM AWAY FROM THE DOOR

The doorbell and costumed strangers stress many dogs, and an open door is an escape route. Use a closed door, gate or crate.

ASPCA • AAHA



ID TAG ON, MICROCHIP DETAILS CURRENT

A microchip only helps if your contact details in its registry are up to date. A collar with an ID tag too.

AVMA



CORDS & SMALL DECOR OUT OF REACH

A chewed cord can hurt your dog's mouth or deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock.

ASPCA



REFLECTIVE GEAR FOR NIGHT WALKS

Out after dark: reflective collar, secure leash and ID attached.

ASPCA

TOXIC FOR DOGS: THE SHORT LIST

Chocolate: Vomiting, diarrhea, panting, thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures. • **Xylitol (sugar-free):** Vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination, which can progress to seizures. • **Grapes & raisins:** Stomach upset first, followed by kidney injury. • **Macadamia nuts:** Weakness, incoordination, vomiting, tremors, overheating; usually within 12 hours. • **Candy wrappers:** Vomiting; a blockage can be life-threatening. • **Glow sticks:** Drooling, retching, vomiting, acting strangely.

Sources (checked October 4, 2026): ASPCA: Halloween Safety Tips [aspcanet.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/halloween-safety-tips](https://www.aspcanet.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/halloween-safety-tips) • Merck Veterinary Manual: Chocolate Toxicosis in Animals [merckvetmanual.com/toxicology/food-hazards/chocolate-toxicosis-in-animals](https://www.merckvetmanual.com/toxicology/food-hazards/chocolate-toxicosis-in-animals) • Pet Poison Helpline: Xylitol [petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/xylitol](https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/xylitol) • AVMA: Halloween pet safety [avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/halloween-pet-safety](https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/halloween-pet-safety) • Pet Poison Helpline: Grapes (and raisins) [petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/grapes](https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/grapes) • ASPCA: Top 5 Tips for a Safe Howl-o-ween [aspcanet.org/about-us/press-releases/aspcas-top-5-tips-safe-howl-o-ween](https://www.aspcanet.org/about-us/press-releases/aspcas-top-5-tips-safe-howl-o-ween) • AAHA: How to Have a Pet-Safe Halloween [aaha.org/resources/how-to-have-a-pet-safe-halloween](https://www.aaha.org/resources/how-to-have-a-pet-safe-halloween) • ASPCA: Your Guide to a Pet-Safe Halloween [aspcanet.org/news/your-guide-pet-safe-halloween](https://www.aspcanet.org/news/your-guide-pet-safe-halloween) • Pet Poison Helpline: Glow jewelry & glow sticks [petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/glow-jewelry](https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/glow-jewelry) • Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine: Spooky but safe: tips to keep pets happy on Halloween [vet.cornell.edu/about-us/news/20201027/spooky-safe-tips-keep-pets-happy-halloween](https://www.vet.cornell.edu/about-us/news/20201027/spooky-safe-tips-keep-pets-happy-halloween) • AVMA: Microchips reunite pets with families [avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/microchips-reunite-pets-families](https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/microchips-reunite-pets-families) • ASPCA Animal Poison Control: People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets [aspcanet.org/pet-care/aspcanet-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets](https://www.aspcanet.org/pet-care/aspcanet-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets) • Pet Poison Helpline: Chocolate [petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/chocolate](https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/chocolate) • ASPCA Animal Poison Control: (888) 426-4435, 24/7 [aspcanet.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control](https://www.aspcanet.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control)