



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

PET POISON HELPLINE

(888) 426-4435

(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/2020/10/27/spooky-safe-tips-keep-pets-happy-halloween](https://www.vet.cornell.edu/about-us/news/2020/10/27/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)