



# Calm HALLOWEEN FRIGHT

## Safety Tips for Families with Dogs



*Halloween can be a dangerous holiday for dogs. Keep your dog safe with tips from Bark Busters.*

### BRING YOUR DOG INDOORS.

Even if you have a fenced yard, bring your dog inside where they cannot be harmed or overwhelmed by little ghouls and goblins. If your dog is an outside dog, bring them in a few times before the big night to get them comfortable with being indoors. Remember, it is a natural instinct for dogs to protect the family from strangers, and on Halloween there will be plenty of strangers.

### KEEP YOUR DOG RESTRAINED.

If your dog is timid or scared, or if they tend to love people a little too much, put them in a separate room away from the front door. This will limit their excitement, aggression or chance of running outside and getting lost or injured.

### REASSURE YOUR DOG.

If your dog seems to feel unsettled by Halloween activities, just act as normally as possible. By over-reassuring your dog or giving them extra attention, you inadvertently can communicate to them that there must be something to worry about.

### GET YOUR DOG USED TO COSTUMES.

Your dog may regard his family members as strangers once they don their Halloween costumes. Before the kids put them on, allow your dog to scent the costumes. Keep masks off while your dog is around.

### CHECK YOUR DOG'S IDTAG.

Be sure identification tags are secure on your dog's collar-just in case.

### KEEP CANDY AWAY FROM YOUR DOG.

Many candies-especially those containing chocolate or xylitol, an artificial sweetener-are toxic to dogs. Problems can range from a mild upset tummy to vomiting and diarrhoea, or even death. For your dog's safety, be sure to keep all sweets and their wrappers well away from them.

### PROTECT DOGS FROM CANDLES AND PUMPKINS

Agitated or excited dogs (and their swinging tails) can easily knock over a lit candle or pumpkin. Keep such items out of your dog's reach, or consider using a battery-powered candle that does not burn.

### THINK TWICE ABOUT DRESSING YOUR DOG IN COSTUME.

While some dogs do enjoy being dressed up, many don't. Experiment first to see if your dog likes being in a costume. If they show any resistance, don't do it. Tie a fun bandana around their neck and they'll be happier and safer.

### CONSIDER CAREFULLY AND BE PREPARED.

Think carefully about taking your dog with you on trick-or-treating rounds. You may unintentionally instill a new fear of strangers in them, creating a wariness that could last long past the holiday. If you do take your dog, keep a firm grip on their lead. Dogs do not understand that the person jumping out at you will not hurt you; they often think they can only help you by acting aggressively. Neither children nor adults in costumes should approach a dog without the owner's consent.

This information is brought to you as a public service by Bark Busters Home Dog Training-the world's largest, most trusted dog training company. Bark Busters is the only international dog training company that offers guaranteed lifetime support. Find more information by contacting your local dog behavioural therapist at 0800 167 710 or by visiting [www.barkbusters.co.nz](http://www.barkbusters.co.nz)

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