

"IT'S PUMPKIN TIME"

a newsletter of "timely" articles



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PETS

FROM THE DENVER ANIMAL LEAGUE via Tallyville.com

Protect your PET during Halloween by keeping it at home. A pet who's out with Trick-or-Treaters can be spooked by the excited voices of youngsters, as well as by their costumes, causing the animal to run and become lost from home.

While you're greeting Trick-or-Treaters at your home, keep your pet confined and away from the door. This will help to prevent your dog or cat from darting outdoors.

If you're a DOG owner, remember that your pooch may feel that its territory is being invaded by the constant ringing of the door bell or the knocks on your front door, and, therefore, may become anxious and bothered. By keeping him or her away from the front door, you'll help to keep your dog calm and prevent it from growling or possibly biting your visiting goblins and ghouls.

The recommendation is that you always keep your cat indoors, unless it's wearing a harness and leash and is with you. However, if you own a CAT who is black, you need to be especially careful on Halloween since Trick-or-Treaters may be inclined to yell or act excitedly when they see it, and this could, of course, frighten your feline friend.

It's also important to remember that some people are superstitious about black cats and could try to harm them. There are plenty of stories of vicious pranksters who have teased, injured, stolen or even killed pets on this night

If you're thinking of giving someone a black cat to celebrate Halloween, give that person a homemade gift certificate for a local animal shelter instead. This will allow the individual to select just the right cat, or other pet, for themselves and to adopt a new pet at a time that's most convenient for them.

Be careful of ALL PETS around a lit pumpkin. Pets may knock it over and cause a fire. Curious kittens or birds especially run the risk of getting burned.

Celebrate Halloween with your PET by sharing with it only goodies that are made especially for its species, like dog biscuits or cat treats. Trick or treat candies are not for pets. Chocolate is toxic, and tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed.

Additionally, keep the Halloween candy in your house out of your pet's reach. Just like table scraps, candy can make your pet quite sick. In fact, chocolate can actually be fatal to dogs. Two things in chocolate cause toxic effects: theobromine and caffeine.

Signs of toxicity include vomiting, loose stools, restlessness, hyperexcitability, rapid breathing and seizures.

If you suspect toxicity get your pet to a vet immediately



TIDBITS

from: Urban Legends
www.snopes.com

Catnappings are said to be starting ever earlier in the year.

Halloween-related animal abductions are said to now begin as early as August, and include several breeds of **DOGS** as well:



"The disappearance of symbolized occult animals like black and white cats and Rottweilers, Dobermans and Great Danes starts the same time every year".

For example, ritualistic sacrifices are said to make use of white cats as well as black cats:

"Although black cats are at greater risk when it comes to cult sacrifices, white cats — because of their link to purity and virginity — have become a target in recent years.

Bad luck for Black cats?

What is it about black cats?

By Kim Crocker, Humane Society



What is it about black cats that evokes such fear and superstition? To some, they symbolize bad luck. To others, they represent dislodged spirits stuck between this world and the next. Whatever you may think about black cats, the majority of them are not so scary. I have met many black cats at the Humane Society who, in fact, are very affectionate and playful companions. A cat, no matter what the colour, is a life companion. That is something we should always keep in mind.

No excuse for mistreatment

Some people are cruel to black cats, especially on Hallowe'en, because of their own superstitions and fears. There is no excuse for mistreating an animal. Cruelty towards cats, towards any animal, is not funny and it is not cool.

Other people purchase black cats to give as Hallowe'en gifts. An animal should never be given as a gift. If you would like to give your friend or loved one a cat, please come to the Humane Society and purchase a cat gift voucher. This way, your friend can choose their own cat companion and you can be sure that the cat is wanted. (I'm sure you can imagine how stressful it is for an animal to be brought into a new home only to be neglected and, perhaps, even discarded after the holiday has passed.)

Help dispel the myths

Unfortunately, we see an increase in the number of black cats at the shelter after Hallowe'en. Please help us prevent this from happening this Hallowe'en. Tell your friends and families that cats are not good gifts. Dispel the myths that black cats are bad luck or dislodged spirits.

Black Cats Go Into Hiding on Halloween Night



was known to be a companion to a witch, not an enemy. Also, animal sacrifice is not a normal part of the Church of Satan, unlike what is believed. Many people believe that the killings of cats are performed by Halloween pranksters, the wannabes and some occults.



Senior **Annick Ducher** said, "The only cats I have ever had are black. Its really stupid that people would do that to animals." If you have any cats take a safety measure and make sure that they are locked safely in the house on Halloween night.

Feature Article From: "The Bay Eagle"
By Leandra Martinez
www.elsegundousd.com/eshs/bayeagle/monthly_newspaper

As children go out into the dark night wearing colorful costumes and carrying their buckets filled with candy, there is danger out there for animals, especially for black cats. There are some people who perform satanic rituals on cats and drain them of blood, behead or disembowel them. This can occur at any time of the year, but this activity increases during Halloween time. Cats are more vulnerable around this time of year because of all the tales about them, especially black ones.

 Cats have become a symbol of Halloween, which can be traced back to the middle ages where they were believed to be companions to witches. Halloween began about 2,500 years ago where the Druid priesthood held the power and ruled by terror. The day that most worshippers feared was October 31, the festival of death, which was established to honor the lord of death, Saman. On that night Saman was supposed to send dead souls to the homes of the living and in order to protect themselves, they would offer food, animals, and humans as sacrifices. Now, some followers perform this ritual on Halloween.

 These satanic sacrifices have become such a problem that many adoption agencies & shelters around the United States have halted the adoption of solid black and white cats. And even tri-colored cats. From the beginning of October to the beginning of November, many adoption agencies wont adopt out black, white, or even combination cats in fear that the might be used for sacrifices. There is also one shelter that bans adopting out solid colored cats through November 8 because there are sacrificial ritual dates listed on satanic calendars. Junior, **Lucy Palatian** said, "I think that it's harsh that people have to stop adopting out cats around this time of year. People need to know that their animals are safe and this should not happen."

 There was even one incident in which a man called an animal shelter and asked them for a black cat for a sacrificial ceremony. Most adoption agencies are cautious all year about who they send their solid colored cats home with, but around this time of year, they feel that the cats are much more vulnerable. There was also an incident where a black cat and a gray cat was stolen from an adoption center a few days before Halloween. Hopefully nothing terrible happened to it, but its impossible to know who stole them and for what purposes.

 Though many people may think that witches and occults are the ones who perform satanic rituals on animals, this is wrong in most cases. In fact, these rituals are performed by wannabe witches because a real witch would not do this considering that in the Middle Ages a black cat

October: Black Cat Month

From **Franny Syufy**, @ www.cats.about.com

The Perils of Halloween

While October may be the favorite month of thousands of humans, who excitedly plan their costumes of spooks, vampires and monsters, in anticipation of Halloween, cats, particularly black cats, have little cause for celebration this month.

Much has been said about the more violent indignities that may be practiced on black cats at this time of year, but a more subtle cruelty has surfaced in recent years. Some shelters have noted a spate of black cat adoptions shortly before Halloween, with many of these cats returned to the shelters in the days after the holiday because "He just didn't work out." One might assume that these people just wanted another Halloween decoration for their house - a black cat in the window, perhaps, or a "familiar" to go with that new witch costume. It probably did not even occur to them that this practice is cruel and inhumane - this kind of individual typically thinks of cats as property, and not as sentient beings who suffer real trauma from being dragged back and forth from shelter to home and back again.

Let's talk about the violence. It is true that statistics on black cat torture during October are lacking - most of the stories we hear are heresay, and some, no doubt, have been drummed up simply for the shock value. The conundrum is that the problem can be self-fulfilling. Young minds are vulnerable, particularly the minds of youths who have themselves been abused. When they hear stories of ritual Satanic abuse of cats, a spark ignites, and a new crime wave is off and running, with a "stray" black cat the target.

Ritual sacrifice still exists. Talk to almost any police officer in a rural area about it and you may hear a story or two about cattle found, completely drained of blood, often with vital organs



missing. These stories crop up in newspapers once in awhile, and while some may be dismissed as "urban legends," the possibility exists that some are true.

The perception of danger to black cats on Halloween has become so prevalent that many shelters and humane societies refuse to allow adoption of black cats during the entire month of October. Lacking this previously easy source of victims, practitioners of the black occult and other sadists look to the streets for their sacrificial cats, and color is not always the highest priority.

Black Cats

Black cats have taken a bad rap throughout history. Greek mythology taught that a woman named Galenthias was turned into a cat and became a priestess at the temple of Hecate, the "Dark Mother," and sometimes known as the Mother of Witchcraft. During the 12th and 13th century, witches in Europe were often found with their "familiar," usually black cats, and were said to turn themselves into cats at times. During the witch-burning era of the 17th century, witches' cats were put into baskets and burned alongside the witches.

Even in the 21st century, old superstitions have survived. In many European countries and in the U.S., black cats signify bad luck, while in England, your luck is said to turn good if a black cat crosses your path.

Keep Them Indoors

For the reasons cited above, it is best to keep all cats indoors during the month of October, regardless of their color, but especially if they happen to be black. (Indeed, cats are safer indoors *any* time of year.) Even though there may be no cultists in your neighborhood or community, the sheer numbers of people out and about on Halloween, along with increased vehicular traffic make the outdoors a frightening and unsafe place for small furry creatures.

In addition, on Halloween night and the weekend before, you'll be wise to keep your cats locked inside an interior room in the house, lest they panic and slip out when hobgoblins come to your door. Even the calmest cat can become upset at endless doorbell ringing and youthful voices shouting "Trick or treat!" Enjoy your holiday while saving your kitties from unnecessary stress.



pet's safety.

* **Continual doorbell ringing and people at the door** (in costume, no less!) can be stressful for a pet. Some pets may experience stress-related diarrhea or potentially injure themselves if

crated or otherwise contained. Keep your pet in a quiet and safe place on Halloween.

* **Strangers in costume** -- Watch your pet! Some animals may become unexpectedly aggressive or fearful, even normally friendly pets.

* **Candles and Jack-o'-lanterns** within a pet's range are a fire hazard.

* **Candy** - many pets have a sweet tooth. General overindulgence, chocolate, and plastic/cardboard candy-filled toys can cause added problems if ingested.

* **Keep your pets indoors** on Halloween night, especially black cats. Animals are at risk for cruel treatment by some Halloween pranksters. Many adoption agencies and humane societies will not allow adoption of black cats around Halloween for this reason.

Look at all of that candy!

For many people, Halloween = candy. **Please warn children not to share their goodies with the family pet.**

Chocolate is toxic to pets. Granted, a 50 pound dog would have to eat about 50 ounces of milk chocolate (but only 5 ounces of baking chocolate) for a toxic dose, but much smaller amounts can cause vomiting and diarrhea. **Signs of chocolate toxicity** include tremors, nervousness, vomiting, diarrhea, increased heart rate, and in severe cases, seizures and death. If you suspect that your pet has eaten chocolate, consult your veterinarian.

Other candies, such as lollipops and those with plastic components, pose a danger if ingested. Lollipop sticks and plastic parts can cause intestinal obstruction and potentially rupture the intestines, which is a life-threatening emergency.



He looks so cute in his little red suit...

* While viewed as fun and adorable for some pet owners, caution is advised when putting a costume on a pet. A pet in costume should NEVER be left alone and unsupervised.

* Tight elastics on the costumes can get lost in the pet's hair, potentially causing owners to overlook them, leading to swelling and pain in the area of the elastic.

* Some pets, if left alone in costume, may chew it up and ingest it. This *could* cause intestinal obstruction if more than small shreds of material are consumed.

* If the costumed pet escapes or is frightened away, the costume could entangle the pet on trees, fences, etc.

Play it safe and have fun

With a little caution and some common sense, Halloween can be a fun time for kids and pets alike. If any acts of animal cruelty are seen or suspected, please call your local shelter or animal authorities. We Wish Everyone A Happy and Safe Halloween.

For Additional Information: Do an Internet Search or go to www.witchvox.com/holidays/samhain/1031_blackcats.html www.dpjs.co.uk/animal.html



The best protection for your pets this Halloween season is being informed. Take a look on the web for information.

“ ZIPPY CAT ”

Courtesy of CAT FANCY, Oct. '97



Instead of Carving the usual Triangle Eyes & Jagged Teeth Here's A Unique Cat Craft That's Sure To Be A Treat . . .

Why not try this unique design -- and express your love for cats at the same time?

The Zippy Cat pattern from Pumpkin Masters Inc. will make your pumpkin a spooktacular standout in the neighborhood!

The pattern fits average-size pumpkins and can be reduced or enlarged on a photocopier (make an extra copy for next year too).

 Cut & remove the lid. Clean out seeds and strings. Now you're ready to transfer the pattern onto your pumpkin.

 Trim the pattern and tape it to the pumpkin. To make the pattern fit, make small folds along the slash lines and tape in place.

 Poke small holes about 1/4 inch apart along the solid lines, then remove the pattern.

 Following the dotted lines, gently carve out the shaded area around the cat.

To make carving easier, considering purchasing Pumpkin Master's Pattern Book Carving Kit. The kit comes with a set of four tools. It can be found at party and craft stores, as well as mass merchandise stores all over. Cat Lovers & Dog Lovers will find patterns with their favorite pets.

HAPPY PUMPKIN CARVING



Zippy Cat (A16)
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Keep children and pets away from sharp objects and open flames. Be prepared and Be Safe this Halloween!