

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HALLOWEEN CAN BE SCARY FOR PETS

CHICAGO EMERGENCY VETERINARIANS WARN
“HALLOWEEN IS A DANGEROUS HOLIDAY FOR PETS”

CHICAGO. Oct. 26, 2012 – Halloween can be a scary time for pets. Candy, fun decorations and a constant stream of scary-looking strangers at the door can lead to serious health problems for cats and dogs.

“Each year we treat pets that are suffering from illness or injuries related to Halloween activities,” said Jerry Klein, DVM, supervising veterinarian of Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center. “Chocolate, sugar-free candy, sugar-free gum and raisins can lead to serious health problems, or even death for pets,” said Dr. Klein.

Pet owners are encouraged to take special care to protect their pets at Halloween. Here are some tips for keeping cats and dogs safe.

Halloween Safety Tips for Pet Owners

- ***Halloween Candy, Gum And Other Treats Are Spooky for Pets***
 - Keep candy and other sweet treats out of your pet’s reach. Not only can they cause an upset stomach, but treats like chocolate and sugar-free gum are poisonous to pets. Grapes and Raisins can be poisonous for some dogs. Candy wrappers also present a serious hazard as they can become lodged in the pet’s intestines and require surgery to remove. Pet owners who suspect their pet has

eaten candy, gum, grapes, raisins, or wrappers should immediately contact their veterinarian or Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center.

- ***A Dark and Creepy Night***

- Pets should be kept inside and under control on the night youngsters are trick-or-treating. That's safest for the pets and for trick-or-treaters too. Many pets become frightened by scary-looking strangers and try to bite or run-away. It's best to keep pets inside and away from the door or on a leash when trick-or-treaters visit.

- ***Pet Identification?***

- This is a good time of the year to make certain your pet has up-to-date identification. All pets should have identification on their collar and be micro-chipped. This will quickly reunite a pet with its family should it become lost. If your pet is already micro-chipped, make certain your contact information is up-to-date with the micro-chip company. Your veterinarian can quickly insert a micro-chip into your pet if it doesn't already have one.

- ***Holiday Costumes for Pets***

- The costumes are adorable – but can be dangerous to your pet. Costumes should allow pets to move freely, breathe easily, bark or meow and have no dangling parts that can be easily torn off and swallowed. Give your pet some opportunities to become accustomed to the costume by putting it on them for short periods prior to when you want them to wear it. Or, put it on them only long enough to take pictures. If your pet doesn't enjoy dressing up, it's best to let them be themselves on Halloween.

- ***All That Glitters or Flickers Is Bad!***

- Halloween glow sticks, costumes, decorations and flickering candles all present serious dangers for naturally curious cats and dogs. Be sure to keep dangerous items out of the reach of cats and dogs. If you have curious pets, consider using electric candles.

Pet owners who fear their pet has ingested any inappropriate item should immediately contact their veterinarian or Chicago Veterinary and Emergency Specialty Center. Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is open 24 hours a day, every day, to provide emergency, critical and specialty care to Chicago area cats and dogs. The expert staff and state-of-the-art facility are equipped to handle even the most challenging cases.

**About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center
(www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com)**

Chicago's oldest and largest pet emergency center, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center today provides the most advanced emergency, critical and specialty care available to cats and dogs. Each year, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center treats more than 11,000 dogs and cats in its emergency room and thousands more see their veterinary specialists.

Staffed by highly-trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is always open – 24 hours each day, every day of the year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, the facility offers board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, radiology and surgery to treat pets with special medical or emergency needs. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. Since 1978, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been providing care for Chicago-area pets when they need it most.

Media Availability

Media access to veterinarians and to the Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center can be scheduled.

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