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**Halloween & Hounds**

**By Jennifer Shryock**

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Halloween is "fright night" for humans not dogs. Screaming, running, spooky children in masks make many dogs uncomfortable, nervous and frightened.

Halloween costumes are fun and are meant to disguise our normal appearance. Dogs do not understand this change in appearance and may become frightened. Costumes that change the way a person walks, stands, or their general appearance may cause a dog to react different then usual even with those they know.

Keep in mind that children on Halloween night are excited and doing their best to be scary. This is not a fair or safe situation to put even the best of dogs in. Even the normally terrific tolerant family dog can find this night hard to handle.

Along with costumes being frightening to a dog there are some that may become interesting too. Swords, tails and dangling things may be fun for an excited dog to chase and toddlers certainly won't appreciate that.

Every child and every costume is a new opportunity for different reactions from the same dog.

I recommend setting up your dog with their own private Halloween bash in a safe quiet spot with a yummy treat of their own. Here are some tips to help make this safe haven most comfortable.

- 1.Stuff a food dispensing toy with yummy mush and freeze it until it is "Halloween" time.
- 2.Use a fan or radio for white noise. Something consistent is best.
- 3.Be sure the blinds are down or the dog is not watching kids coming and going by the window. This will only frustrate him and allow him to practice barking and carrying on at the window.

## Halloween Hounds

Chocolate is toxic to dogs. Put candy in a safe spot.

Many dogs are stolen, poisoned or injured by Halloween pranks. Keep your dog safe and sound inside your home.

Be safe and aware and have fun!

For more information on kid and dog safety on Halloween check out and

<http://www.familypaws.com>

&

<http://www.doggonesafe.com>

&

<http://www.safekids.org/>

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### **Fun & Healthy Halloween Treats**

**By Sherri Allen**

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It's almost time for Halloween. Little ghosts and goblins will be running through neighborhoods across the country, going door-to-door, calling out the same three words, "trick or treat!" Of course, they'll be hoping for and expecting treats. This year, instead of handing out the usual candy treats, consider trying an alternative. Here are some Halloween treats the children will enjoy that won't leave them bouncing off the walls:

\* Small bags of pretzels or chips

## Halloween Hounds

- \* Mini–bags of microwave popcorn
- \* Fruit–Roll Ups
- \* Fruit juice snacks
- \* Small packages of nuts or sunflower seeds
- \* Individually wrapped beef jerky or Slim Jims
- \* Snack–size graham crackers, animal crackers or Goldfish crackers

You could even consider non–food items. Here are a few:

- \* Stickers — kids love stickers
- \* Halloween (or other cool, colorful) pencils
- \* Plastic whistles
- \* Spider rings
- \* Brightly–colored toothbrushes or flavored dental floss

Be creative and help the children in your neighborhood have a healthier Halloween!

Sherri Allen is the editor of SherriAllen.com, an online publication devoted to topics such as family, food, garden, house & home, and money. For great articles, information, tips, recipes, reviews and coloring pages, visit

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