

**PetScoop: How to Have a Pet-Friendly Halloween**



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**Doggie Talk**



**How to Have a Pet-Friendly Halloween**

It will soon be time for costumes, tricks and treats! We wish everyone a howling good time this Halloween and offer these safety tips to keep in mind.

**Halloween treats**

All of the candy, chocolate and sugary treats can be tempting to Fido, but keep them away from him. Items like chocolate and candy sweetened with xylitol can be harmful. Your dog or cat doesn't have to miss out on the Halloween fun though. Just give them special treats or toys of the pet variety.

**Doggy-proof décor**

Is the pumpkin-carving tradition alive and well at your home? If so, use a non-flammable light rather than a candle for your jack-o-lantern. You don't want your curious dog or cat to get singed or start a fire. Beware also of using fake webs, small plastic spiders and other decorations that can be easily chewed or ingested.

**Trick-or-treating guests**

Part of the fun on Halloween is opening the door to trick-or-treaters in cute costumes, but these visitors can cause stress for your pets. If your dog or cat isn't very social, keep them in a separate room until trick-or-treating time is over. Also, be sure your pets are wearing ID in case they do manage to dart out the door. This is one holiday when all pets should be kept indoors.

**Pet costumes**

You might like the idea of a doggy superhero or a canine Yoda, but how well will your dog handle the costume? Make sure it doesn't impede your pet's movement or cause undue stress. Otherwise, consider a costume with a light cape or a simple design. Even a bandana can add a festive touch.

From cowboys to hot dogs, we have a variety of costumes at Pet Supermarket. Take your pick and visit us on Halloween day for a pet treat! Have a safe holiday!



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**Kitty Chatter**



**Your Cat Can Jump**

Your cat is a mini acrobat who can climb high, jump far and nearly always land on her feet. But do you know how? A combination of light bones, strong muscles and fine motor control give your cat her super kitty powers. Read on to learn more.

- Cats can use their muscle power and strong hind legs to jump up to six times their own height!
- Bones matter. A cat has light, yet strong bones built for speed and quickness.
- A flexible back and balancing tail help your cat jump and climb with skill. They're also vital to helping her land on her feet.
- With seven times more muscle sensors than humans, cats have greater fine motor control.
- Cats are fast, but don't have the endurance to run long distances. They'd rather jump or climb to escape.
- Big cats are big jumpers too. A snow leopard, which can grow to six or seven feet (with a two- to three-foot tail), can jump 35 feet!



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**Birdie Bits**



### How to Cut Stress for Feather-Picking Birds

Did you know feather plucking is one of the leading causes of vet visits for pet birds? Birds like to clean themselves just like other animals, but their behavior can become obsessive due to stress or their environment. Read on if your bird is taking his feather picking too far.

#### What causes feather picking?

Feather picking can be the result of a medical condition or stress. Your first step should be to check with your vet to rule out any medical issues that may be causing or contributing to the problem. If it's not caused by a medical condition, it may be due to stress or an environmental issue.

To help your bird, offer the following:

- **Varied Diet** Do you vary your bird's diet? Is it nutritionally sufficient? Offering a varied diet not only helps your bird avoid boredom, it also fills his dietary needs. In addition to seed, offer pellet food, fresh fruit and vegetables.
- **Stress-Free Environment** Is your bird's cage in a noisy area? Move it to a less stressful room for some quiet time, especially if your bird's not getting enough sleep. (Parrots need 10 hours of uninterrupted sleep.) Not keeping your bird's cage clean can also cause stress. If the cage spends more time dirty than clean, you may want to step up your cage cleaning schedule.
- **Mental Stimulation** Birds can be very intelligent and social. Think of them as small children who get bored quickly. For mental stimulation, get your bird a variety of toys and rotate them every one or two weeks. Focus on activity toys like swings and ladders, puzzle toys with food, and toys that can be torn up. These will keep your bird stimulated and also allow him to work off any frustration!

Start these good habits early to avoid feather plucking and help your bird live a long, healthy life. For questions or recommendations on [bird food](#) or [bird supplies](#), visit Pet Supermarket.



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### Name That Breed!



**Hint: Known as the "King of the Toys".**

- Greyhound
- Shih Tzu
- Chihuahua
- Miniature Pinscher

[Answer](#)

### Breed Profile



### Siamese Cat

Siamese cats are originally from Thailand (then called Siam) and were first seen in England in the 1800s when an English ambassador received one as a gift. They have since fascinated cat lovers around the world with their intelligence, exotic features and unique color pattern. They have also led to the creation of other breeds, including the Balinese, Oriental and Himalayan Persian.

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