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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Animal Services Highlights Pet Safety Tips this Halloween Season

Keep Pets Safe during the Festivities

EL PASO, Texas – While Halloween can be a fun and festive time for families, it can also present some unique challenges for our beloved four-legged companions. To ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween for pets, El Paso Animal Services is pleased to share some essential Halloween pet safety tips:

1. **Beware of Candy:** Keep candy out of your pet's reach. Chocolate and sugar-free sweets can be toxic to animals, and candy wrappers can pose choking hazards. It's crucial to store candy where pets can't access it.
2. **Costume Considerations:** If your pet isn't a fan of costumes, don't force them into one. Test the costume ahead of time to ensure it doesn't restrict movement or breathing and opt for something simpler like a Halloween bandana for a more comfortable alternative.
3. **Décor Dangers:** Decorations are an integral part of Halloween, but they can pose threats to curious pets. Keep candles, lit pumpkins, and electrical cords out of pets' reach to prevent burns, fires, or electrical shock. Also, be mindful of decorations that your pet might chew on or ingest.
4. **Identification is Key:** With doors frequently opening and closing, there's an increased risk of pets escaping. Make sure your pet has proper identification, such as a collar with an updated ID tag and a microchip with your current contact information to increase their chances of returning home safely.
5. **Create a Safe Haven:** Minimize stress and the risk of escape by keeping your pets away from the Halloween commotion. A quiet, pet-friendly room with their favorite toys and background noise to create a comfortable retreat.
6. **Be Seen on Strolls:** If you decide to take your pet for a Halloween walk, ensure they're visible with reflective collars, leashes, or lights to keep them safe during your trick-or-treating adventures.
7. **Know Your Pet:** It's essential to know your pet's temperament and stress levels. If your pet becomes too anxious or agitated during Halloween festivities, consult with a veterinarian for guidance on calming solutions.

If your pet happens to go missing, El Paso Animal Services encourages owners to visit the shelter immediately at 5001 Fred Wilson Ave. They also recommend to visit their website to submit a lost pet report and additional resources to increase your pet's chances of returning home: ElPasoAnimalServices.org/LostPetResources/.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
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Media contact: Julieanne Newbold
Public Affairs Coordinator
(915) 493-4324