

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pet Sitters Take the Fright out of Halloween Night *NAPPS Provides Tricks for Making Halloween a Treat for Pets*

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J., September 1, 2011 — Halloween is fast approaching, and with the festive decorations and trick-or-treating, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) is providing valuable information to pet parents on keeping their pets safe.

According to the Halloween Industry Association (HIA), there has been an increase in the number of pets participating in Halloween activities. “More families are taking their pets trick-or-treating as well as dressing them in Halloween costumes,” explains Marc P. Beige, Chairman of the Halloween Industry Association.

“With the proper safety precautions, pet parents can have fun with their pets this coming Halloween,” continues John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters.

NAPPS has prepared helpful tips for pet parents to ensure that pets have an enjoyable time and are free from harm:

- Do not let your pet eat chocolate or candies. Treats containing the artificial sweetener xylitol, are poisonous to dogs and cats. Make sure that children know of these dangers and keep their candy out of the pet’s reach.
- If your pet shows signs of being poisoned, contact your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline immediately at 1-800-213-6680 with any questions or concerns.
- Properly dispose of candy wrappers after use, as the tin foil, plastic components and cellophane can pose a choking hazard for pets.
- Continual knocking at the door and doorbell ringing can cause a pet to become agitated and anxious. This could result in unpleasant stress-related symptoms or could cause the pet to potentially injure themselves if constrained in a crate or other enclosed object. Make sure to keep your pet in a quiet and safe place on the holiday.
- Keep Halloween decorations out of the reach of pets. Electric lights, wires and cords could damage your pet’s mouth or give your pet a life-threatening electrical shock.
- Jack-O-Lanterns are festive, but keep them away from pets when the pumpkin is lit with a candle. Pets can easily knock them over and cause a fire.
- If you decide to dress your pet in a costume, make sure your pet is comfortable and safe. Costumes should not limit movement, breathing or hearing, and should not contain anything that could easily be chewed off or caught on other objects.
- Proper identification tags are important in case your pet escapes during the evening.

“Halloween can be full of pleasant memories when pet safety is considered,” explained NAPPS President John D’Ariano. “With proper precautions, the entire family – pet included – can enjoy an evening of fun.”

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national non-profit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as “the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS’ free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS’ nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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