

How To Prevent Halloween Howls

Halloween is a frightful holiday to begin with, making the occasion anything but Fear Free® for your pet. However, even amidst all the spooky spectacles, there are still ways you can reduce anxiety and create a Fear Free Happy Home for your best friend. Give these tips a try and get even more information on creating a Fear Free Happy Home at fearfreehappyhomes.com.

Ditch the Doorbell

With so much action at the front door, your pet's mood can range from territorial to curious. You might consider covering up the doorbell and opting for a motion-sensor decoration to alert you before trick-or-treaters reach the door. Even for friendly pets, it is a good idea to keep them on a leash or utilize their crate while you tend to trick-or-treaters.

Comfy Costumes

While some pets might enjoy dressing up, others would prefer not to wear a costume. To identify your pet's comfort level with dressing up, watch their body language. If their head and tail are down or they are pawing to get the costume off, dressing up is not for them. If they don't mind a costume, make sure you try the costume on well in advance of the holiday to check the fit and safety.

Sights and Sounds

Sound is a major part of Halloween. Decorations often have a scary sound component, and then there's the stream of trick-or-treaters knocking or ringing the doorbell. In addition to new sounds, new sights often carry a fright for pets. Some pets freak out at the sight of their owner in a mask or costume. Let them get familiar with your costume and keep treats handy to condition pets to associate what might be scary with something good.

The New Trunk and Treat Option

Consider organizing a Trunk and Treat event in your community parking lot where children can safely trick or treat from car to car and your pets remain safely at home. You can even transform the end of your driveway or sidewalk into the perfect place to hand out treats without disturbing your pets.

Staycation

Stay in tune with your pet's stress levels. If your pet is less social, consider creating a pet-safe room with appropriate treats, toys, and favorite items. Prepare ahead of the holiday by letting them become familiar with their safe space. On Halloween, plan to let them into the room an hour or so prior to trick-or-treaters arriving.



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