

Have a Safe

# Halloween



Changes in routine and the strange sights and sounds associated with Halloween can cause stress in a normally placid family dog. Keep dogs out of the fray by securing them away from the door and providing a long-lasting chew treat. Teach kids to Be a Tree and stand still if any dogs come near them on Halloween.

Halloween is lots of fun for kids, but many dogs will be confused or upset by kids in strange costumes and by lots of people coming to the door, but never being invited in. Doggone Safe ([www.doggonesafe.com](http://www.doggonesafe.com)) and Cowichan Canine Behaviour & Training Ltd offer the following tips for dog owners, kids and parents:

## Dog owners

1. Secure your dog behind a closed door or in a crate in a room away from the front door.
2. If children are meeting at your house, or you will be opening the door to trick-or-treaters during the evening, keep your dog secure in a separate room away from the children.
3. Make up a Kong stuffed with some yummy, mushy food and frozen, to enjoy while he is in his secure room.
4. Play music or leave a TV or radio playing in the dog's room to help mask the sounds of the activity at the front door.
5. Close drapes so that the dog does not see people coming and going through the window.
6. If you have a dog that barks at the sound of the doorbell, disconnect it or watch for trick-or-treaters so that they do not have to ring or knock.
7. Puppies and dogs that like to chase can get overly excited by costumes with dangly bits or streaming material. Supervise very carefully if you have a dog that may try to play with your children's costumes while they are wearing them. Teach kids to "Be a Tree" (\*) and stand still if the dog does start nipping at their costume since the more they move, the more excited the dog will get.  
(\* ) *Stand tall and still, fold your branches (arms & hands) and look at your roots (feet) grow.*
8. Keep your dogs (and cats) indoors around Halloween time. Pets have been stolen, injured or poisoned as part of Halloween pranks or other rituals, and many dogs have run away in fear after having been frightened at the door by trick-or-treaters.

## Kids and Parents

1. Avoid houses if you can hear a dog barking behind the door, if you can see a dog behind a screen door or if you see a dog tied up in the yard or barking behind a fence.
2. Never approach any dog, even if you know him. He may not recognize you in your costume.
3. If an owner opens the door and there is a dog there, just stay still and wait for the dog owner to put the dog away. You can tell them you do not want to come near the dog. Do not move toward the person or the dog. Wait for them to come to you to give you your candy. Wait for them to close the door before you turn and leave, so that the dog doesn't start chasing you.
4. If a dog escapes, just stand still and Be a Tree (hands folded in front, watching your feet). He will just sniff you and then move on. Wait for the owner to come and get the dog before you turn away, so that the dog doesn't start chasing you.
5. If you meet a loose dog, Be a Tree and wait until it goes away.
6. It is best to ignore other people's dogs on Halloween if you meet them out walking. The dog may be worried about all the strange creatures that are out and about. Even if you know the dog, he may not recognize you in your costume.

Doggone Safe and Cowichan Canine wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween!

## About Doggone Safe

Doggone Safe is a non-profit corporation registered in Canada, Ontario and New York State with offices in Canada and the US. Doggone Safe's mandate includes dog bite prevention through education and dog bite victim support. Educational seminar programs offered by Doggone Safe are Be a Tree™ (for school-aged children) and Be Doggone Smart at Work™ (for workers who come into contact with dogs on the job). For more information about dog bite prevention please visit the Doggone Safe website at [www.doggonessafe.com](http://www.doggonessafe.com).

***Cowichan Canine offers FREE Be-A-Tree bite-prevention education to schools and kindergartens in the Cowichan Valley area. To book lessons, contact:***

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