Halloween can be a festive and fun time for children and families. But for pets? Let's face it, it can be a downright nightmare. Forgo the stress and dangers this year by following these 10 easy tips.

1. Trick-or-treat candies are not for pets.
   All forms of chocolate -- especially baking or dark chocolate -- can be dangerous, even lethal, for dogs and cats. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning may include vomiting, diarrhea, rapid breathing, increased heart rate, and seizures. Halloween candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol can also be poisonous to dogs. Even small amounts of xylitol can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar and subsequent loss of coordination and seizures. And while xylitol toxicity in cats has yet to be established, it's better to be safe than sorry.

2. Don't leave pets out in the yard on Halloween.
   Surprisingly, vicious pranksters have been known to tease, injure, steal, and even kill pets on Halloween night. Inexcusable? Yes! But preventable nonetheless.

3. Keep pets confined and away from the door.
   Not only will your door be constantly opening and closing on Halloween, but strangers will be dressed in unusual costumes and yelling loudly for their candy. This, of course, is scary for our furry friends. Dogs are especially territorial and may become anxious and growl at innocent trick-or-treaters. Putting your dog or cat in a secure room away from the front door will also prevent them from darting outside into the night … a night when no one wants to be searching for a lost loved one.

4. Keep your outdoor cats inside several days before and several days after Halloween.
   Black cats are especially at risk from pranks or other cruelty-related incidents. In fact, many shelters do not adopt out black cats during the month of October as a safety precaution.

5. Keep Halloween plants such as pumpkins and corn out of reach.

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**Pet of the Month**

Meet Duke

This sweet boy is a 4 year old Lhasa Apso & Shih Tzu Mix and has cataracts since he was very young. We had him to an eye specialist but he also has detached retina and surgery would not restore his sight but he is a fun loving happy and playful boy. For information on adopting our little Duke send an inquiry to: information@waggintailsrescue.com

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House Training your new Puppy

Give them the best start...

House-training your dog or puppy requires far more than a few stacks of old newspapers—it calls for vigilance, patience, plenty of commitment and above all, consistency. By following the guidelines outlined below, you can minimize house-soiling incidents. Virtually every dog, especially puppies, will have an accident in the house, and more likely, several. Expect this—it’s part of living with a puppy. The more consistent you are in following the basic house-training procedures, the faster your puppy will learn acceptable behavior. It may take several weeks to house-train your puppy, and with some of the smaller breeds, it might take longer.

Establish a routine

Like babies, puppies do best on a regular schedule. The schedule teaches him that there are times to eat, times to play and times to potty. Generally speaking, a puppy can control his bladder one hour for every month of age. So if your puppy is two months old, he can hold it for about two hours. Don’t go longer than this between bathroom breaks, or he’s guaranteed to have an accident. If you work outside the home, this means you’ll have to hire a dog walker to give your puppy his bathroom breaks.

Take your puppy outside frequently—at least every two hours—and immediately after he wakes up, during and after playing, and after eating or drinking.

Pick a bathroom spot outside, and always take your puppy (on a leash) to that spot. While your puppy is eliminating, use a word or phrase, like “go potty,” that you can eventually use before he eliminates to remind him what to do. Take him out for a longer walk or some playtime only after he has eliminated.

Reward your puppy every time she eliminates outdoors. Praise her or give her a treat—but remember to do so immediately after she’s finished eliminating, not after she comes back inside the house. This step is vital, because rewarding your dog for eliminating outdoors is the only way to teach her what’s expected of her. Before rewarding her, be sure she’s finished eliminating. Puppies are easily distracted: If you praise her too soon, she may forget to finish until she’s back in the house.

Put your puppy on a regular feeding schedule.

What goes into a puppy on a schedule comes out of a puppy on a schedule. Depending on their age, puppies usually need to be fed three or four times a day. Feeding your puppy at the same times each day will make it more likely that he’ll eliminate at consistent times as well, and that makes house-training easier for both of you.

Pick up your puppy’s water dish about two and a half hours before bedtime to reduce the likelihood that she’ll need to potty during the night. Most puppies can sleep for approximately seven hours without having to eliminate. If your puppy does wake you up in the night, don’t make a big deal of it; otherwise, he will think it is time to play and won’t want to go back to sleep. Turn on as few lights as possible, don’t talk to or play with your puppy, take him out to do his business and return him to his bed.

Supervise your puppy

Don’t give your puppy an opportunity to soil in the house; keep an eye on him whenever she’s indoors.

Keep your puppy on leash in the yard.

During the house-training process, your yard should be treated like any other room in your house. Give your puppy some freedom in the house and yard only after she has become reliably house-trained.

Confine your puppy when you can’t supervise her

When you’re unable to watch your puppy at all times, restrict her to an area small enough that she won’t want to eliminate there. The space should be just big enough for her to comfortably stand, lie down and turn around. You can use a portion of a bathroom or laundry room blocked off with baby gates. Or you may want to crate train your puppy and confine him in the crate. (Be sure to learn how to use a crate humanely as a method of confinement.) If your puppy has spent several hours in confinement, you’ll need to take him directly to his bathroom spot as soon as you let him out—and praise him when he eliminates.

Oops! Take mistakes in stride

Expect your puppy to have a few accidents in the house—it’s a normal part of house-training. Here’s what to do when that happens:

Interrupt your puppy when you catch him in the act of eliminating in the house. Make a startling noise (be careful not to scare him) or say “OUTSIDE!” Immediately take him to his bathroom spot, praise him, and give him a treat if he finishes eliminating there.

Don’t punish your puppy for eliminating in the house. If you find a soiled area, it’s too late to administer a correction. Just clean it up. Rubbing your puppy’s nose in it, taking him to the spot and scolding him, or any other punishment will only make him afraid of you or afraid to eliminate in your presence. In fact, punishment will often do more harm than good.

Clean the soiled area thoroughly. Puppies are highly motivated to continue soiling in areas that smell like urine or feces. Check with your veterinarian or pet store for products designed specifically to clean areas soiled by pets.

It’s extremely important that you use the supervision and confinement procedures outlined above to minimize the number of accidents. If you allow your puppy to eliminate frequently in the house, she’ll get confused about where she’s supposed to eliminate, which will prolong the house-training process.

Make plans for when you’re away

A puppy under six months of age cannot be expected to control his bladder for more than a few hours at a time (approximately one hour for each month of age). If you have to be away from home more than four or five hours a day, this may not be the best time for you to get a puppy; instead, you may want to consider an older dog, who can wait for your return.

If you already have a puppy and must be away for long periods of time, you’ll need to:

Arrange for someone, such as a responsible neighbor or professional pet sitter, to take him outside to eliminate.

Train him to eliminate in a specific place indoors. Be aware, however, that doing so can prolong the process of house-training. Teaching your puppy to eliminate on newspaper may create a life-long surface preference, meaning that even as an adult he may eliminate on any newspaper lying around.
My Foster Dog Is Beautiful

AUTHOR UNKNOWN
My foster dog stinks to high heaven. I don’t know for sure what breed he is. His eyes are blank and hard. He won’t let me pet him and growls when I reach for him. He has ragged scars and crusty sores on his skin. His nails are long and his teeth which he showed me often are stained. I sigh. I drove two hours for this. I carefully maneuver him so that I can stuff him in the crate. Then I heft the crate and put it in the car. I am going home with my new foster dog. At home I leave him in the crate till all the other dogs are in the yard. I get him out of the crate and ask him if he wants ‘outside.’ As I lead him to the door he hikes his leg on the wall and shows me his stained teeth again. When we come in he goes to the crate because that’s the only safe place he sees. I offer him food but he won’t eat it if I look at him, so I turn my back. When I come back the food is gone. I ask again about ‘outside.’ When we come back I pat him before I let him in the crate, he jerks away and runs into the crate to show me his teeth. The next day I decide I can’t stand the stink any longer I lead him into the bath with cheese in my hand. His fear of me is not quite overcome by his wish for the cheese. And well he should fear me, for I will give him a bath. After an attempt or two to bail out he is defeated and stands there. I have bathed four legged bath squirts for more dog years than he has been alive. His only defense was a show off his stained teeth that did not hold up to a face full of water. As I wash him it is almost as if I wash not only the stink and dirt away but also some of his hardness. His eyes look full of sadness now. And he looks completely pitiful as only a soap covered dog can. I tell him that he will feel better when he is cleaned. After the soap the towels are not too bad so he lets me rub him dry. I take him outside. He runs for joy. The joy of not being in the tub and the joy of being clean. I, the bath giver, am allowed to share the joy. He comes to me and lets me pet him.

One week later his first Vet visit, his skin is healing. He likes for me to pet him. I think I know what color he will be when his hair grows in. I have found out he is terrified of other dogs. So I carefully introduce him to my mildest four legged brat. It doesn’t go well. Two weeks later a new vet visit for an infection that was missed on the first visit. He plays with the other dogs. Three weeks later he asks to be petted. He chewed up part of the rug. Eight weeks later his coat shines, he has gained weight. He shows his clean teeth when his tongue lolls out after he plays chase in the yard with the gang. His eyes are soft and filled with life. He loves hugs and likes to show off his tricks, if you have the cheese. Someone called today and asked about him, they saw the picture I took the first week. They asked about his personality, his history, his breed. They asked if he was pretty. I asked them lots of questions. I checked up on them. I prayed. I said yes. When they saw him the first time they said he was the most beautiful dog they had ever seen.
Six months later I got a call from his new family. He is wonderful, smart, well behaved and very loving. How could someone not want him? I told them I didn’t know. He is beautiful. They all are.
Happy Tails

Hi, I thought that you would enjoy an update of our boy King Skylor.

He is still very crazy about other dogs and wants to play and kiss them all when we walk and swim at the Lake. He is quite the swimmer. He is very adamant about being close to us at all times and wherever we are, he is there leaning that big frame against one of us and even a hug is a threesome, as you know, he is as tall as me when he stands on those big back legs. He has to sleep in the middle of the bed with all 4 feet in the air snoring away! He gives us soo much laughter.

Connie Heckman

Certified Nutritionist & Personal Trainer
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www.shaklee.net/heckmanpartners

My new home is amazing! My friend Grizzley Bear and I lay in the sun room or play with toys. I am on a diet because the goodies were too tempting but I get carrot sticks for treats now.

Hi,

Well here is the story of Hank and his life after adoption.

Hank was born to a litter of Boxer-mix pups and we met him at his Foster Mom’s home in Brodheadsville, PA. He was born on Valentines Day in 2004, so at the time, his name was Romeo! His brothers and sisters went by similar names, Valentino for example. When we met the pups, I was thinking I wanted to adopt a female, but Hank (Romeo) was so big and clumsy and lovable, we just fell in love with him immediately.

Fast Forward, Hank is now 4 1/2 years old now and is a very important part of our family, living in NJ. He has a nice big fenced yard to run and play in, and he now has (people-grandkids) kids that are big enough to play with too. He just Loves his Kids! He has a doggie friend next door, too, and they chat through the fence and seem to have much to say to each other.

When it comes to dinner time, you might think Hank was a picky kitty, he’s very select about what he likes and doesn’t like; he isn’t much for people food at all…..and don’t even think about trying to pass off any of that yucky old grocery store dog food…oh no…he’d rather starve than stoop to that level! The Hank menu for people food includes prime rib and ham bones (good thing we have a professional chef in the family who can bring those things home to him), chicken nuggets and HOT DOGS! Mmmmmmmmm Mmmmmmmmmmm Hot Dogs! Hank will do almost anything for a Hot Dog! Like I said, he’s a funny guy!

Hank is a silly clown, and loves to play, especially wrestling or tag! He still can’t catch a ball after all these years, but, hey, who’s perfect, right? LOL!

Hank has run of the house, he has his own special seat on the sofa, and loves to rest his head on a pillow, although he usually ends up upside down twisted into a pretzel when he’s sleeping. He also has his favorite seat in the car, the rear passenger side, and loves the fresh air. He sits up nice and straight, and when we go to the drive-thru bank the tellers call him Mr. Posture Perfect, and they always send out a doggie bone. Well, being polite as he is, Hank will take the doggie bone in his mouth and hold it there until we pull away, and then he’ll drop it on the floor…because, although he appreciates their effort, how could they know that uggghhh, he just doesn’t eat stuff like that. Then, of course, there’s bedtime, after a hard day and all that hard napping, he loves to cuddle in bed with me at night, but, he needs an invitation, every single night…LOL! He’s gotten so big, there’s barely any room for me!

Hank is a very protective guy, and though (thankfully) he doesn’t bite, he’ll give a stranger a strong warning before we give him permission to let them in. Once he knows it’s OK, then he’s your friend for life and can’t wait to see you again…..and since I guess he doesn’t realize that he’s 80 lbs., watch out! He gets very excited about his friends!

Well, I just want to thank you all for the great work you do, and thanks for rescuing Hank so that he can be part of our family. We love him so