Fall Safety Tips for Dogs & Cats

SIMPLE SAFETY TIPS TO ENJOY A FRET-FREE FALL
NO TRICKS, NO TREATS
It’s best to keep your cat or dog on their regular diet during the holidays, especially Halloween. Keep candy out of their reach as chocolate and candy containing xylitol, including many sugar-free chocolates, gummies, and mints, will make your pets sick. Chocolate-related health issues can cost up to $1,200.

SICK AS A DOG
Canine flu and bordetella, or kennel cough, are airborne diseases that mostly affect dogs, although cats have been known to get infected as well. If you see a dog coughing, keep your own dog away and avoid touching the ill dog. If your dog develops a cough or high fever, contact your veterinarian immediately.
HALLOWEEN HORRORS
Lots of unfamiliar faces, loud talking, and laughter can stress your pet out. Add costumes, masks, and constant knocks on the door and it may just be more than your pet can handle. Exercise your dog and give them a special chew toy to keep them distracted. If they still seem stressed, put them in a quiet room away from the commotion. Cats will probably hide all on their own, so make sure they have access to a calm area.

KEEP PESTS OUT CAREFULLY
As the weather turns cooler in fall, rats and mice may decide that your house would be a great place to stay warm and dry. Be mindful of how you prevent these pests from entering your home. To keep them out, close up any entry holes and choose anti-rodent products that are nontoxic to pets. Rodenticides are extremely toxic to dogs and cats, so it’s best to discuss a safe control plan with a professional exterminator and your veterinarian.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES
Now that kids are back in school, make sure you keep items like pencils, markers, and glue sticks out of your pet’s reach. If they decide the new school supplies would make great snacks, they might get gastrointestinal upset or blockages. Cats are more likely to bite the edges of notebooks and paper.

TREATMENT OF FOREIGN BODY INGESTION CAN RANGE FROM $400 TO $1,700.
MYSTERY MUSHROOMS

Keep your pets from eating mushrooms that pop up on lawns, under trees, in fields, and on logs. While some won’t make your pet sick, a few are deadly. If your pet accidentally eats one or you know the mushroom is toxic, go to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

ALLERGIES

Just like people who have seasonal allergies, your cat or dog may also react to pollen, dust, or other allergens. Pet allergy symptoms can be similar to ours — sneezing or coughing, runny nose, itchy skin, ear infection, and itchy, red, or watery eyes. If you think your pet might be suffering from allergies, call your veterinarian to discuss testing and treatment plans best suited for your pet’s needs.

ALLERGY TREATMENT IS ONE OF OUR MOST COMMONLY CLAIMED CONDITIONS.

CAR COOLANTS

Fall is a great time to change your car’s engine coolant but be careful because most coolants are highly toxic to pets. Clean up any spills immediately, keep any remaining new coolant out of reach, and dispose of used coolant. Also, consider switching to a propylene glycol-based coolant — while it isn’t completely nontoxic, it is significantly less toxic than other engine coolants.