Halloween Tips for Pets and Their People

For Immediate Release

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[***Bangor***]— Halloween can be a terrifying and disturbing time for our pets. With Halloween less than two weeks away it's time to think about how we can keep our pets safe and content during this holiday dedicated to the frightening and quirky. Here are our top tips.

- **Keep Your Pets Inside, Safe and Secure –** Place your pet in a part of your home where they will be behind a closed door and away from the commotion of a party or the trick-or-treaters coming to your door. Pets could easily bolt through an open door if they are excited or frightened and can be lured outdoors by Halloween pranksters. The frenetic activity of a party, especially where people are dressed oddly and acting strangely, is often distressing to our pets. Give your pets a private spot in a quiet part of your home with no outdoor access and away from any activities. Most dogs will enjoy a yummy chew and cats like a box to hide in or a bed where they can take a snooze.
- **Disconnect the Doorbell or Be Ready to Meet Trick-or-Treater's at Your Door –** Many dogs react by barking every time someone rings the doorbell or knocks on your door. It is not fair to get upset with your dog for this behavior. If your dog does not currently bark every time they hear "ding-dong" they might after one night of Halloween. You can avoid this problem by disconnecting your doorbell or remaining at the door during the trick-or-treating time.
- **Keep the Treats Away from Your Pets** – Halloween treats can be unhealthy and very dangerous to our pets. Anything containing chocolate or the artificial sweeter Xylitol can be very toxic.
- **Keep the Costumes for You and Your Kids, NOT the Pets** – Dressing your pet in a costume may be fun for you, but is probably a very stressful experience for your pet. If your dog freezes in place, or frantically tries to get out of the costume, or exhibits any calming signals (tongue flicks, yawns, etc.), your dog would probably prefer to remain "au naturel."
- **Leave Your Dog at Home When Trick or Treating** – Halloween is a holiday for kids, so if you take your children trick-or-treating, focus all of your attention on the kids and let your dog have a safe and relaxed evening at home. You will all be happier.

You can find more detailed tip online at – **http://bit.ly/Halloween-Pets**

In business since 1965, Green Acres Kennel Shop, located at 1653 Union Street, is committed to pet-friendly, force-free pet care. We offer boarding, daycare, and grooming for dogs, as well as pet behavior consultations and group and private dog training classes. Voted Best Kennel every year since 2002, Best Pet Store every year since 2007, Best Dog Trainer every year since 2011, and Best Pet Groomer every year since 2013, the Green Acres retail store offers a wide variety of wholesome pet foods, treats, and quality supplies. In December of 2018, we were recognized by Best Businesses of America as one of the Top 10 Kennels and Top 25 Dog Trainers in New England. We are a proud member of The Pet Professional Guild. For more information, please call 945-6841 or visit www.greenacreskennel.com