



BLUETARG

Halloween Dog Safety Checklist

Tape this to the fridge before October 31st.
Room-by-room checks, costume rules, doorbell plan,
and emergency numbers — all in one place.

bluetarg.com

Free printable from the BlueTarg Halloween Safety Guide for Dogs

Kitchen & Candy Bowl

Do these before October 31st

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- ☐ **Move ALL candy above dog-nose height**
High cabinet with a child-safety latch — counter-surfers open low cupboards.
- ☐ **Tell every kid the rule: no sharing loot with the dog**
Chocolate, sugar-free candy, and raisins are all dangerous for dogs.
- ☐ **Check labels for xylitol ("birch sugar")**
Sugar-free gum and candy can be an emergency within 10–60 minutes.
- ☐ **Keep pumpkin PIE FILLING away from dogs**
Some pie filling contains xylitol — highly toxic. Plain canned pumpkin is fine.
- ☐ **Stock your dog's own treats before the 31st**
So you never hand over a candy bar "just this once."
- ☐ **Freeze a stuffed Kong for Halloween night**
Peanut butter (xylitol-free) + freeze = the doorbell-night distraction tool.

Decorations & Costumes

Audit from dog height

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- ☐ **Swap real candles for battery LED candles**
Wagging tails + open flames = burns or a knocked-over fire hazard.
- ☐ **Put glow sticks out of reach**
The liquid tastes awful and causes heavy drooling if chewed.
- ☐ **Retire sagging/rotting pumpkins where dogs can't reach**
Too much pumpkin upsets stomachs; rotting pumpkin can harbor bacteria.
- ☐ **Tuck cords and string lights behind furniture**
Chewing a live cord can give a serious shock.
- ☐ **Decorate above tail height**
Rubber props, fake cobwebs, and small decor are choking/blockage risks.
- ☐ **Costume test: Velcro only, nothing dangling**
No buttons, drawstrings, or elastic. Sight, hearing, breathing, mouth, and movement must be free.
- ☐ **Practice the costume on short sessions before Halloween**
Freezing, pawing, or shutting down = skip the costume. A festive bandana counts.
- ☐ **Never leave a costumed dog unsupervised**

Doorbell & Walk Plan

Halloween evening, 5–9 PM

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Set up the quiet room BEFORE sunset

Far from the front door: bed, water, chew or frozen Kong, soft music on.



Decide: sit OUTSIDE to hand out candy

No doorbell, no knocks, no masked strangers at the threshold. Easiest win there is.



Walk your dog before dark

Avoids trick-or-treat crowds and candy litter on the sidewalks.



Leash short, eyes on the ground on night walks

Dropped candy and wrappers are everywhere — bring your own dog treats.



Reflective collar or vest + your flashlight

Dark streets need visibility for both of you.



Know the stress signals: tucking, panting, refusing treats

If you see them, the outing is over. No prize for finishing the route.



Fearful or bite-risk dog? Closed room all evening

No training goals tonight — just get through it safely.

Emergency Numbers

Fill these in NOW — not during an emergency

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My vet: _____

After-hours / emergency vet: _____

ASPCA Poison Control: (888) 426-4435 (24/7, fee may apply) _____

Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661 (24/7, fee may apply) _____

If your dog eats candy:

1. Take the rest away so they can't eat more.
2. SAVE THE WRAPPER — product name + how much is gone.
3. Note what it was, how much, your dog's weight, and the time.
4. CALL now — don't wait for symptoms, don't try home remedies.
5. Collapsing, seizing, or struggling to breathe? Go to the emergency vet NOW and call on the way.



You're ready for a safe Halloween.

Read the full guide with all the why behind these checks:

bluetarg.com/halloween-dog-safety-guide/

Check your dog's toxin exposure anytime:

bluetarg.com/dog-ate-something-toxin-checker/

Disclaimer: This checklist is general information for dog owners, not veterinary advice. Every dog is different. If you suspect your dog ate something dangerous or is showing signs of illness, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison helpline immediately.