

HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM SOUTHWEST VETERINARY HOSPITAL!

To Our Valued Clients & Their Pets:

Drs. Gary Sargent and Erin Rasmusson are glad to announce that the Opening of Southwest Veterinary Hospital was smooth and are very happy to be back to seeing you and your pets. If you would like to schedule an appointment for your pets, please email us at contact@swvhreno.com or call our office at (775) 825-SWVH (7984).

With the Fall 2008 edition of the SWVH newsletter, we also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that Halloween can be a frightening time for pet owners across the country. It can be scary for our furry friends too. The American Animal Hospital Association encourages pet owners to protect their four-legged family members this October by being mindful of their **F.E.A.R.** – food, environment, attire, and recovery.

Food

Halloween means candy and tasty treats are plentiful and easily accessible to young children and pets. Candy, especially chocolate, is toxic to animals and can cause vomiting, restlessness, heart disturbances, and even death. Although grapes and raisins are a healthy alternative snack for humans, they can be potentially deadly for dogs. These fruits contain an unknown toxin that can damage dogs' kidneys and cause kidney failure.

Candy wrappers can also cause health problems. Animals may eat the wrapper, causing obstruction or irritation to the pet's digestive system. Candy and wrappers should be kept out of pets' reach and young children should be taught not to share Halloween goodies with their pet.

Seasonal foods such as pumpkins and corn may cause minor stomach irritation; however, they are relatively safe for Fluffy and Fido. Pumpkin seeds may cause digestive system obstruction if consumed by smaller animals.



Dr. Sargent & Dr. Rasmusson Examining a Patient.



Environment

Due to the increased foot traffic and commotion in your neighborhood, outdoor pets should be kept indoors during the days surrounding Halloween. Unsupervised outdoor animals are susceptible to stress, inhumane practical jokes or theft. Providing a safe, stress free environment reduces the probability of your beloved friends injuring themselves or others.

Loud and excessive noise created by trick-or-treaters can frighten your cat or dog. Animals should be kept away from the door and out of hearing range of a constantly ringing doorbell and excited children. Fluffy or Fido should be put in a room where they will not be disturbed by noise and activity. A frightened or upset pet may run out the door at the first opportunity and could harm the children in its way.

Be sure decorations are safe from the paws and teeth of curious pets. Crepe paper streamers, fake cobwebs, glow sticks, plastic spiders and cardboard wall hangings can easily be chewed and swallowed, damaging your pet's digestive tract. Animals can also tip over the candle in a jack-o-lantern and burn themselves or start a fire. Keep decorations out of animals' reach, and maintain supervision if they play nearby.

Attire

Transforming your pet into a superhero, witch, ghost, or goblin can be a stressful and unpleasant experience. Some animals love to dress up, but others dread it. If your furry friend doesn't mind dressing up, make sure that you select a costume that doesn't restrict his normal movements, breathing or vision. Costumes that interfere with these things can cause ligament or joint injuries, and animals are more likely to bite if their vision is impaired.

Recovery

It is important to have a plan if your pet becomes sick, injured or lost this Halloween season. Since time is critical during any unfortunate incident, owners should always have contact information for their veterinarian and local animal shelters easily accessible. While the doctors of SWVH are available 24 hours, 24 hour emergency care can be obtained from the Animal Emergency Clinic. It is also important to update your pet's identification tags and micro chip information each time you move or change phone numbers so that current contact information is always available on your pet.

We look forward to seeing you and your pets soon!

Sincerely,

The SWVH Doctors and Staff.



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