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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NO TRICKS OR CANDY TREATS FOR YOUR PET**

Tips from Animal Care & Control of NYC to Protect Your Pets from Halloween Dangers

New York – Halloween can be a traumatic and potentially dangerous time for your pets. Animal Care & Control of New York City offers sound advice on keeping your pets safe and stress-free while celebrating Halloween.

“While Halloween can be a fun time for children and adults alike remember that your pet depends on you to keep them safe during this festive period,” said Julie Bank, executive director of Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C).

AC&C offers the following tips to help people protect their pets:

1. Keep pumpkins and decorative corn out of the reach of your pets. Gastrointestinal upset and/or intestinal blockage could occur if eaten by your pet.
2. Keep wires and cords from electric lights and other decorations out of reach of your pets. If they chew on the wires they could get an electrical shock or swallow an object that could get stuck in their throat.
3. Exercise caution if you choose to add a candle to a carved pumpkin. Pets can easily knock a lit pumpkin over and cause a fire. Curious kittens especially run the risk of getting burned or singed by candle flames.
4. Candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol and chocolate in all forms—especially dark or baking chocolate—can be very dangerous for dogs and cats. Symptoms of significant ingestion may include vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, increased thirst, urination and heart rate—and even seizures.
5. Please don't put your dog or cat in a costume unless you know he or she is comfortable and not stressed by wearing it. Dressing up can cause your pet lots of stress and anxiety. If you do dress up your pet, make sure the costume isn't annoying or unsafe. It should not constrict the animal's movement or hearing, or impede his ability to breathe, bark or meow.
6. When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that your cat or dog doesn't dart outside. You may want to keep him/her in a separate room away from the front door.
7. Don't take your pets trick or treating. Your dog may not want to go because strangers in costumes can be scary. Also, people may not want you to be coming to their door with a dog. If you must take your dog trick or treating make sure he/she is on a leash and the costume has reflective gear to keep him/her visible when it gets dark.

8. Always make sure your dog or cat has proper identification. If for any reason your pet escapes and becomes lost, a collar with license tags and/or a microchip can increase the chances that he or she will be returned to you promptly and safely.

**About Animal Care & Control**

Animal Care & Control of New York City (AC&C) is the largest pet organization in the Northeast, with nearly 40,000 animals rescued each year. As a non-profit organization since 1995, AC&C has been responsible for New York City's municipal shelter system; rescuing, caring for and finding loving homes for homeless and abandoned animals in New York City. AC&C facilities operate in all five boroughs to service all NYC communities.

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