

**The Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia presents:
Halloween Tips for Pet Owners**

Halloween can be a fun time for children, but for your family pet, it may be very stressful. They may become nervous, whine or bark more, be frightened and act aggressive. Note your animal's behavior and act accordingly.

Here are some tips to ensure you all have a safe and Happy Halloween:

Dogs:

- ✓ Walk your dog before the trick-or-treaters come. Make sure your pet is on a leash and wearing identification tags. Micro-chipping is the safest way to protect your pet in case it becomes lost or stolen.
- ✓ Constant ringing of the doorbell can be stressful for your pet. If you notice signs of stress, please move them to a quiet area of your home.
- ✓ Keep your dog inside and consider putting him in a crate or another room if they are scared. By putting food, water, their favorite toy, blanket or a piece of your clothing in with them, it will help keep them comfortable.
- ✓ Kids in costumes can be scary for pets, especially those wearing masks.
- ✓ Do not leave dogs in cars.
- ✓ Never leave candles unattended as a scared animal or a wagging tail could knock them over and start a fire.
- ✓ If your dog is highly stressed you may consider consulting your vet about tranquilizing for the night or purchasing calming treats from your local pet store.

Cats:

- ✓ Simple: Keep your cats indoors at all times. Remember to spay or neuter your cat to help control the pet population.
- ✓ Black cats are especially at risk at Halloween due to pranksters.

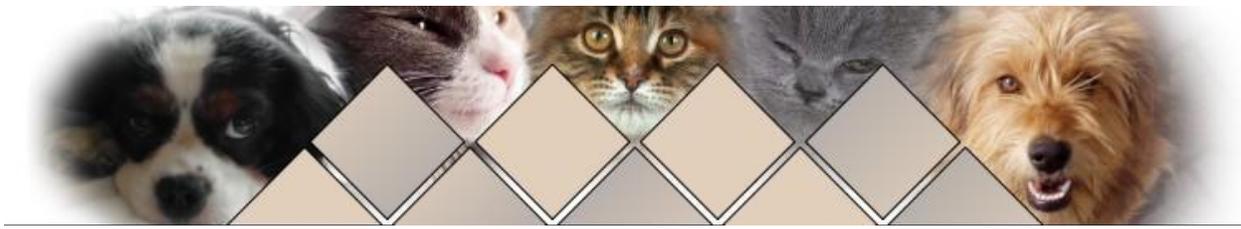
Pets and Treats:

- ✓ Explain to everyone how dangerous treats are to pets. Chocolate is a huge no-no for pets. Even candy wrappers or plastic sucker sticks can be a choking hazard to your animal.

Costumes on your Pets:

- ✓ Pets should never be left unsupervised when wearing costumes. Small parts can become hazards. If your pet becomes frightened and escapes, the clothing can become entangled on fences or trees.





About The Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia (DARTNS)

We are a charitable organization, working in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross to set up and run emergency shelters, for animals affected by man-made and natural disasters. With the Red Cross being one of the leading organizations when it comes to providing humanitarian support in times of disaster, it seems like a natural fit that we now work together. People love their pets and would not want to leave them behind. Now, you can evacuate with your pet, and you both have a safe place to go.

Working with a great group of volunteers, we provide information to the public on emergency preparedness by attending community events, giving educational presentations and promoting items like our ‘Life Meter for Pets’ that helps raise awareness about leaving your pets in vehicles in hot weather.

Remember, **Emergency Preparedness** starts with you.

Make sure your family has an emergency kit with enough supplies to sustain your family and pets for at least 72 hours. If you are unsure of what should be in your kit, a good resource is to contact your Canadian Red Cross, or visit <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/>.

The Disaster Animal Response Team (www.dartns.org) can provide you with an emergency planning checklist in case a disaster strikes or you are forced to evacuate with your pets.

Also, find out what your community/municipality is doing when it comes to emergency preparedness.

In Hurricane Katrina, many lives, property and animals were lost due to a number of factors. The Disaster Animal Response Team, working in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross is able to provide emergency animal sheltering in the event a disaster strikes.

For more information about DARTNS please visit our website: www.dartns.org or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Catherine Stevens, Communications Director, DARTNS

Mobile Number: 902-233-4089

Email: information@dartns.org



The Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia
14 Court Street, Truro NS
B2N 3H7
www.dartns.org