

Media Advisory

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Contact: Zeke Holst
Email: Holstz@saccounty.net
Phone: 916-875-4047

Halloween: Pet Safety and Black Cat Myths: True or False?

Sacramento, Calif. – Sacramento County Animal Care officials remind pet owners to plan ahead for the coming Halloween and keep dogs and cats safe in their own homes. Loud noises, scary costumes, and excited kids can startle and agitate pets. By taking a few minutes to plan ahead, pets can be calm and safe.

Safety Tips:

Dogs may feel that their territory is being invaded by the constant onslaught of visitors. Keeping your dog in a secluded area of the house will help it stay calm and prevent it from growling or possibly biting your visiting ghouls and goblins.

Keep candy out of your pet's reach because it can make your pet sick. Gum/candy often contains the artificial sweetener Xylitol, which can be deadly.

Protect your pet by keeping it indoors and in a separate room, even if they normally are outdoor pets.

Make sure your pets are wearing their licenses – even if you're "sure" they can't get out.

To learn more and see a complete list of Halloween Safety Tips visit the [Shelter website](#).

Be especially careful about keeping black cats indoors on Halloween. Some people are superstitious about black cats and may try to scare or harm them. The [ASPCA](#) provides information about common black cat assumptions:

Black Cats Bring Bad Luck

False. In reality the color of a cat's coat has nothing to do with good or bad luck. And just for the record, in many other cultures, a black cat is a prized pet. In places like Japan and the British Isles, they're even thought to bring their pet parents good luck!

Black Cats Are Evil

False. Sure they may jump on the kitchen counter or use your favorite chair as a scratching post. And just maybe they even try to nibble your toes while you sleep. *All* cats can be playful. But evil? We think not.

Black Cats Are Often Unwanted

True. Ask any shelter or rescue worker and they will tell you—black cats are the hardest to get adopted. In fact, they are only half as likely to find homes as other cats. They have an unfairly earned reputation.

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AND HAPPY ADOPTION STORIES! <http://on.fb.me/XiWGN2>

The County Animal Shelter is open Wednesday through Friday from 12:30 - 5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from Noon–4:30 p.m. and is closed Monday and Tuesday and most holidays.

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