

# Do you know how to keep pets safe on Halloween?

With Halloween approaching, the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association and its member veterinarians share the following tips for keeping your pet safe on the spookiest night of the year:

1. Candy and Chocolate; keep holiday treats and candies out of your pet's reach as they can make your pet quite sick. If eaten, candy and candy wrappers can cause an upset stomach.

Chocolate, particularly unsweetened, dark, bittersweet and baking chocolate, can be toxic to pets, especially dogs, who are more prone to eat it.

According to Dr. Kim Erbes of the Salem Veterinary Emergency Clinic, "If your dog eats chocolate, call your veterinarian or an animal poison control center at once, as treatment may need to be rendered immediately. Symptoms of toxicity include excitement, nervousness, trembling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst or urination, muscle spasms and seizures.

Keep gum, candy or breath fresheners containing the sweetener xylitol away from your dog. When a dog eats even a small amount of xylitol, it causes a surge of insulin, and the animal's blood sugar may drop quickly and dangerously. Cases of liver damage have also been associated with ingestion of xylitol. If your dog ingests xylitol, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center immediately.

2. Trick-or-Treaters; if you plan to participate in Halloween festivities, such as answering

your door to trick-or-treaters, keep pets in a quiet part of the house. Pets can become overexcited, confused or frightened by trick-or-treaters in costume.

Remind your guests that your normally friendly pet may want to be left alone. Young trick-or-treaters may be scared of dogs that run excitedly toward them when the owner answers the door.

Watch for open doors and make sure your pets have ID tags and/or microchips in case they do get out.

Outdoor pets, especially black cats, should be kept indoors on Halloween.

3. Halloween Decorations; holiday decorations such as fake cobwebs should be kept out of reach of pets. Light strands, loose wires and electric cords can be serious hazards to your pets, especially puppies, who may chew them.

Never leave candles, such as those in jack-o-lanterns, unattended, especially around puppies and kittens.

Never allow your pets to eat leftover jack-o-lanterns, as a rotted, moldy pumpkin can make them seriously ill.

4. Costumes; some pets might not mind dressing up for Halloween, but, for others, it could be a stressful experience best avoided.

For more pet health care tips, visit [oregonvma.org](http://oregonvma.org). The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is a nonprofit organization of veterinarians who are dedicated to helping people give their animals a high quality of life.

## Tips given to avoid hitting deer

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- Remember that deer are most active between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

- Use high beam headlamps as much as possible at night to illuminate the areas from which deer will enter roadways.

- Keep in mind that deer generally travel in herds – if you see one, there is a strong possibility others are nearby.

- Do not rely on car-mounted deer whistles.

- If a deer collision seems inevitable, attempting to swerve

out of the way could cause you to lose control of your vehicle or place you in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

## Power of the People

Guest column by Terry Flores, Executive Director, Northwest River Partners

### Salmon Improvements in the River, the Untold Story

A revolution has taken place on the Columbia and Snake rivers. While we wait to see what happens in the courtroom, where the legal wrangling is still playing out, it's a good time to reflect on the past decade and our accomplishments for salmon and steelhead. We have achieved great results with a massive program to benefit fish protected under the Endangered Species Act. Yet, this story of immense investment and measurable progress is all but lost as attention instead focuses on courtroom antics and calls for dam removal.

The eight federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers have undergone major overhauls to successfully aid fish in their journey downstream to the ocean. Big changes have been made at every dam, including the installation of mammoth spillway weirs or "fish slides" at Lower Granite, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, McNary, and John Day. A highly effective "corner collector" has been constructed at Bonneville Dam, attracting and moving young fish past the dam unharmed. A new spill wall at The Dalles Dam and spill deflectors at the dams also make for safer travels for the young fish.

Northwest families and businesses have invested over a billion dollars in these massive modifications and young salmon and steelhead survival rates have improved markedly. Overall, in-river survival is three times higher than it was 30 years ago. The fish slides at the dams post survival rates of 97 to 100 percent at most projects, and the corner collector passes fish at a 100 percent survival rate.

In addition to structural modifications, significant changes have been made in the way the dams are operated with fish migration and survival taking precedent over power generation. Substantially more river flow is devoted to help fish move downstream during the spring and summer migration months, boosting survival rates through the dams. Other successful programs have reduced predation by birds, sea lions, and other aquatic animals which take their toll on

salmon.

Beyond the dams, habitat projects throughout the four Northwest states have restored productive areas for salmon to spawn and rear both in tributaries and the Columbia River estuary. In the tributaries, government agencies, watershed groups and landowners have teamed up to restore spawning and rearing grounds, open channels for fish passage, and provide more water in stream for fish. Estuary programs benefit multiple species by protecting and restoring riparian and off-channel zones, and reconnecting wetlands and floodplains. Where these improvements have been made, the fish have quickly responded.

Progress also has been made to reform hatcheries, and "safety-net" programs which artificially produce fish to prevent extinction and preserve genetic integrity are in place. Record-breaking runs of Snake River sockeye over the past two years are testimony to the success of one such safety-net effort in Idaho.

While attention has focused on the litigation churning away in the courtroom, there has been continued great progress in the river. Federal agencies and their partners in fish management have continued unabated, carrying out projects with demonstrable benefits for the fish. The fish don't care about hearings and briefs, they want improved living conditions and that's what the region is giving them.

Northwest River Partners is an alliance of farmers, utilities, ports and businesses that promote the economic and environmental benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and salmon recovery policies based on sound science.

For more information, please visit [www.nwriverpartners.org](http://www.nwriverpartners.org)

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