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Festive feline ideas and tips for keeping your cat happy and safe on Halloween.

Written by [Caitlin Ultimo](#) ✓



Keeping décor to a minimum and out of your cat's usual play areas will help keep him safe. *Gina Cioli/1-5 Studio*

Cats reign as one of the most notable Halloween icons around. Black cats adorn Halloween décor from string lights to jack-o'-lantern cutouts, and we can't forget about all of the kitty costume inspiration flying around! What would we humans do without our cats, especially on this seemingly cat-obsessed holiday? Well, while we love our feline fanfare, there are a few tricks to watch out for when it comes to our pet's safety and Halloween.

### Scared-y Cat

If your kitty isn't used to having visitors every few minutes, the constant doorbell ringing may cause him some anxiety. If your pet isn't among the most social of cats, think about setting him up in a separate room away from the front door during the time trick or treaters are coming by; a calm cat is a happy cat! If you decide you'd rather let him roam the house throughout the night, be sure he's wearing his collar (in addition to any festive outfits). The door will be opening and closing a lot, heightening the chances of him getting out. If he does happen to make an escape, at least he'll be wearing his tags!

### Festive Décor Beware

String lights, garland, robotic witches and ghosts all make for a chillingly fun Halloween atmosphere.



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However, the decorations may also get in the way of your cat's maneuvers, not to mention possibly posing as unwanted climbing temptation. When [decorating for Halloween](#), try to keep your cat's usual hangouts free of decorative objects to prevent any accidental spills. Also, remember to unplug string lights when not in use, and stick to hanging them up outdoors if you have an indoor cat. You wouldn't want your furry friend getting tangled up in hot lights. And while we all love a little pumpkin carving action, Stephanie Liff, DVM and partner at Brooklyn Cares Veterinary Hospital in New York, shares this piece of advice: "Pumpkin and pumpkin seeds are not toxic to cats and dogs, but anything eaten in excess can cause [diarrhea](#) and vomiting, so keep your pumpkin scraps out of reach of pets."

### Cat Costume Purrfection

Dressing up your cat may be one your favorite things to do every Halloween. I mean, come on, there are few things cuter than having our pets all dolled up. If you know your cat is cool with sporting a costume, than the two of you can have a ton of dress-up fun. Just be sure to avoid any Halloween costumes for cats with dangling objects that he could potentially choke or trip on, and try to find looks that won't be itchy or restrictive. And if your cat gets a little skittish when you try to dress him, my advice is: Let him be. You don't want to cause him any undue stress, and I'm sure you'd rather not go out as an animal attack victim for Halloween!

### Tricky Treats

While candy, chocolate and festive desserts are Halloween staples for us they can be dangerous for our pets.

"Not only is chocolate toxic to both cats and dogs, but other Halloween treats, including raisins, can be poisonous to your pets," Liff says.

Instead of setting a bowl by the door, maybe keep your candy in a container that closes tight with a plastic lid. This way, if your kitty pounces for a treat of his own, there's less of a chance of him grabbing the goods before you can get to him. And while he may not be able to share your treats, you can totally whip up a little festive flavor for your Halloween cat. Here's an easy-to-make recipe for pumpkin pies cookies for your kitty:

### Pumpkin Pie Cookies

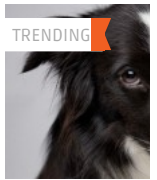
(via the [ASPCA](#))

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups rice flour
- 1/2 cup oatmeal
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 cup grated carrots
- 1/2 cup unsweetened plain applesauce
- 1/4 cup flour for rolling

#### Directions

1. In a food processor, blend carrots, applesauce and pumpkin until smooth.
2. Mix rice flour and oatmeal in a bowl.
3. Add wet ingredients to the dry and mix gently until dough forms.
4. On a floured breadboard, place dough and roll out to about 1/4 inch in thickness.
5. Use cookie cutter to cut out little cookies.
6. Place cookies on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for seven minutes.



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7. Flip treats over and bake for five more minutes. Remove from oven and cool thoroughly.

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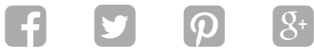
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