HALLOWEEN
safety tips

Keep Candy Away From Your Dog.
That bowl of candy is for trick-or-treaters. Chocolate in all forms, especially dark or baking chocolate, can be very dangerous for dogs and cats. Candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol can also cause serious problems for your pets.

Keep Your Pet Safe
When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, take care that your dog or cat doesn't dart outside. If your dog is timid or scared, or if he tends to love people a little too much, it is best to put him in a separate room away from the front door to limit their excitement, aggression or fears. Even in a fenced yard, bring your dog inside where it is safe. Your dog may be used to strangers, but so many little ghouls and goblins running about may be too much.

Check Your Pets ID Tags.
Always make sure your dog or cat has proper identification. If for any reason your pet escapes and becomes lost, a collar and tags and/or microchip can be a lifesaver, increasing the chances that they will be returned to you.

If Your Pet Must Dress Up Ensure It Is Safe And Not Annoying.
While some animals enjoy being dressed up, many don't. Experiment first to see if your pet likes being in a costume. The costume should not constrict the animal's movement or hearing, or impede its ability to breathe, bark or meow.

Decorations.
Wires and cords from electric lights and other decorations should be kept out of reach of our pets. If chewed, your pet might suffer cuts, burns or receive a shock. A carved pumpkin is festive, but do exercise caution if you choose to add a candle. Excited or agitated dogs can easily knock over a lit candle or pumpkin. Consider a battery powered candle that does not burn for safety.

Be Prepared.
If you take your dog with you trick-or-treating, be prepared at all times. Dogs do not understand that the person jumping out at you will not hurt you: they often think they can only help you by acting aggressively. Neither children nor adults in cos-tumes should approach a dog without the owner's consent.

Help Your Pet Get Ready For Halloween.
Your pet may see their family members as strangers once they don their Halloween costumes. Before the kids put them on, allow your pet to scent the costumes. Keep masks off while your pet is around.

KCAC
Kane County Animal Control
www.kanecountypets.com