

KALAMAZOO ANIMAL RESCUE

Phone: (269) 226-8570

KAR Friends ~ October 2019

Dear Reader;

Here we are in October—how the time flies! Kalamazoo Animal Rescue had a very successful Empty the Shelters event to start off the month – huge thanks to the Bissell Pet Foundation, our dedicated volunteers, and the wonderful adopters who came to find their special friends and give them forever homes! What a great way to celebrate Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog (and Cat) month! **There are still plenty of delightful KAR cats and dogs available for adoption, though, so please check out the cats and dogs on KAR's website [HERE](#).**

To keep the party rolling, **KAR's annual Dinner Auction is coming up soon.** Check for details on the KAR website; we hope you'll join us!

Please feel free to share this issue with friends and family. We appreciate your continued support of KAR's mission to help homeless, stray, and abandoned cats and dogs. Together we make a difference!

Sincerely,

Pat Hollahan
KAR Friends Editor

In This Issue**Pets of the Month**Read [Buffy's](#) StoryRead [Shevi's](#) Story

Don't Be Tricked By Unfriendly Treats



By Karren Jensen

For many people, Halloween is a favorite time of year when fantasy becomes reality, fueled by a steady diet of indulgent food.

Although childhood dreams and adult role-play are a special part of Halloween celebrations, sharing the fun with your pets needs to be done in a healthful way. Many of the food items you consider delightful may pose serious health risks for your pets. Your canine and feline friends want to share the fun but we need to prevent them from eating some of the "delicacies" we enjoy that can cause harm to a cat or dog. **Here are a few thoughts to bear in mind while celebrating Halloween with your furry friend(s):**



- **When your best dog buddy sees you with a treat and begs to share the tasty morsel, keep this list in mind.** All of these items are especially toxic to dogs and should always be avoided: chocolate, candy corn, sugar-free candy, caramel apples, macadamia nuts, and chocolate-covered raisins. In general, human foods are not suitable for the nutritional needs of our canine pets. Dogs are curious and will be attracted to any special foods you have around, so be sure to keep your human candy and treats safe and secure from an investigating canine. If you want to give your dog a

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 26, **MVPets**
Westnedge Ave.
- Oct. 26, **Paver Pet Supply**
Portage Road

For details on these and other upcoming events, please [see our Events page](#) on the [KAR website](#).

KAR Links

- [VOLUNTEER](#)
- [Become a Foster Family](#)
- [Adoptable Dogs](#)
- [Adoptable Cats](#)
- [Adoptable Kittens](#)
- [Special Needs Pets](#)
- [Senior Cat Companions](#)
- [KAR Website](#)
- [Donate Today!](#)

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[Email us](#) with any newsletter suggestions or questions!

Contact Us

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special treat, provide him/her with treats designed for dogs, along with praise and lots of love.

- **Cats are also vulnerable to being poisoned or made ill by a variety of human foods.** Your feline friend is a carnivore who depends on meat for his/her nutritional health. The myth that cats need milk ignores the fact that cats become lactose intolerant after infancy and will become ill if they eat candy or other party foods containing milk products. It is best to avoid feeding any of the following Halloween goodies to your cat: chocolate, dairy-based treats, sugar-free candy, and raisins. Keep all candy away from your kitty, especially since she might be intrigued by the crinkly wrappers of small candies and could choke on paper or develop an intestinal blockage from wrappers or lollypop sticks. As with dogs, you should give your cat treats specifically created for his/her needs and avoid human candy or other Halloween fare. Love and attention are far more desirable to your kitty friend than any dangerous human goodies.

If your pet happens to ingest any of the listed items or becomes ill unexpectedly, seek veterinary care immediately and [contact the poison control hotline](#) to receive additional advice.

Pets are a special part of our lives and wonderful members of our families. We want them to share all of our celebrations and be intimately involved in our fun times. Make this Halloween trick-free with pet-safe treats and lots of love for your furry friend(s).

Additional Resources:

- [General safety tips](#)
- [Candies to avoid](#)

Pets and Costumes



By Pat Hollahan

Why dog and cat costumes?

Probably for the same reasons so many of us love to dress up ourselves, our children, and our houses. There's just something about decorating that calls out to us (some of us anyway—I'm sure mine is not the only household where the enthusiasm is pretty one-sided).



When we're choosing a costume for ourselves, we decide if it fits, if it's comfortable, if a glance in the mirror indicates that this is a Really Bad Choice. And once they've achieved a certain age, our children can (and will) make specific requests and voice their displeasure if necessary. Our pets have much less in the way of options if we decide they should pose as a Viking cat or march in a holiday parade as a cowboy dog.

So, to help Fluffy and Fido with the concerns they may not be able to articulate (assuming they're not hiding under the couch or in the secret places in the basement), **here are some general guidelines for costuming your four-footed friend:**

- Does your dog or cat like to be dressed up and fussed over or is the whole notion of being in costume going to be a source of stress for your pet? Remember, no photo op or parade appearance is going to turn out well if your friend looks miserable or ridiculous.

- Is your pet safe and comfortable in his or her costume? Does the costume fit properly? Is it too heavy? Does the costume allow for unrestricted breathing, sight and hearing, movement? Are there any choking hazards that a nimble and curious feline or canine can get at in the two seconds that your back is turned?
- If you're going out in public—parading or accompanying trick-or-treaters—is your pet readily visible (bright colors and/or reflective lights)? In case something goes wrong outside and your pet takes off on his or her own, does the costume allow ready access to visible identification tags?

Here's to a safe and happy Halloween to all who celebrate! And be sure to remember that it's always appropriate not to share candy with your four-footed family members. (Says the person who's hiding her mini chocolate bars . . . from everyone.)

Additional Resources

- [Pet costume safety](#)
- [Costume safety guidelines](#)

Special Thanks



We'd like to thank the sponsors, volunteers, adopters and everyone who participated in the Bissell Pet Foundation's Empty the Shelters adoption event.

From a happy adopter:
"Thanks to the awesome crew at Kalamazoo Animal Rescue for helping our family find these two new additions during the Bissell event."



About Us

Kalamazoo Animal Rescue is an all-volunteer, federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was founded in 1991 and is funded entirely through donations from the public.

KAR is dedicated to providing refuge to homeless, stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Kalamazoo and the surrounding communities.

Our volunteers give their time and energy to the efforts of rescuing animals and helping them to find permanent, committed and life-long homes.

Visit our website [here](#) for more KAR information!



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