

THE BRYI'S DOG TRAINING DOGS & HALLOWEEN



www.thewoodlanddogtraining.com

Halloween and Your Dog

SAFETY FIRST

Halloween can be a scary time for many dogs: random people are arriving at your door wearing weird costumes and if you have a dog that reacts to the doorbell ringing, well its probably going to ringing more on Halloween night than any other night of the year!!

Combine this with the increased risk that doors may then be accidentally be left unsecured and it can definitely be a stressful time for pet parents.



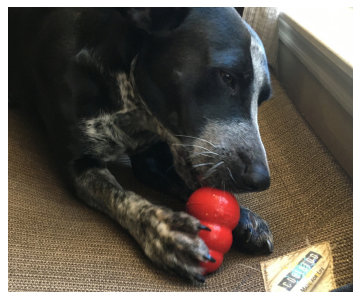
Give them access to a safe space away from the hustle and bustle

Be there to comfort and support them



The doorbell ringing can be a bucket filler for many dogs. If you have a dog that gets overly excited or nervous by the sound of the doorbell because it predicts the arrival of people then their arousal levels are going to sky rocket during the trick or treat window. When our dogs arousal levels increase whether it is combined with a positive or negative emotional response it makes thinking and making what we think of as good choices much harder.

When anyone says Halloween many of us will think Trick or Treaters and lots of candy. Xylitol can be used as a sweetener in many products and chocolate especially the darker varieties can be fatal for dogs if ingested in sufficient quantities so keep it well out of the reach of your dogs.



Give them a kong or long lasting chew. Chewing and licking are passive calming activities

Alter walk times if needed to avoid trick or treaters or ditch the walk for the day.



There are some simple steps you can take to help ensure your dog stays safe over the Halloween period

- Pop them in a room with a long lasting chew or similar away from the front door
- Leave a bowl of candy outside so no one needs ring you door bell
- Take them out for a walk at times when trick or treaters are not expected
- Keep all candy products out of their reach
- Watch out for dropped candy when out walking the next day
- Have one family member stay with your dogs while another answers the door



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HOLIDAY STRESS AND WHAT TO DO

Signs of Anxiety

Many dogs have noise sensitivity and this can be coupled with a degree of pessimism. They may become anxious when things change or something happens unexpectedly so when the doorbell is constantly ringing and strangely dressed people arrive it can be a truly traumatic event for some of our dogs.

Signs of anxiety and fear can be quite subtle at the lower end of the spectrum and include what looks like normal dog behavior: what makes it a sign of stress is that it is out of context. A dog can pant when it's warm or has been playing/exercising but a dog panting heavily inside with the ac on is showing they are stressed or potentially in pain.

Some of the most common signs of stress/anxiety in our dogs include:

- seeking out people
- avoiding people
- salivating/drooling
- pottying in the house
- lip licking and yawning
- a tucked tail
- destructive behavior
- hiding
- panting
- enlarged pupils
- restlessness
- trying to get away
- scratching at doors
- barking
- shaking/trembling

Stress Buckets

Just like us our dogs have a stress bucket and this gets filled up by both positive and negative stress. Their buckets can come in a range of sizes from a thimble to a beer barrel and it has nothing to do with the size of your dog!!!

A tiny Yorkshire Terrier could have a bigger bucket than a Great Dane so it's important for us to know how big our dog's bucket is as well as it's condition.



Ideally your dog will have a big bucket with lots of holes in it: we love the holes to be close to the bottom. That way their bucket virtually empties as quickly as it fills. Tiny buckets with no holes will fill up the quickest and when they overflow out dogs tend to chose behaviors we may deem as undesirable. However, it is important to remember that when our dogs display these behaviors they are actually trying to reduce their own stress.

Common Stressors

The most common stressors for dogs at Halloween are:

- Doorbell Ringing
- People in Fancy Dress
- Being made to wear fancy dress costumes
- Additional people and activity in the home
- Fireworks





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MAKING YOUR DOG FEEL SAFE

Helping your dog at Halloween

Not all dogs are social butterflies so for those that like the quiet life:

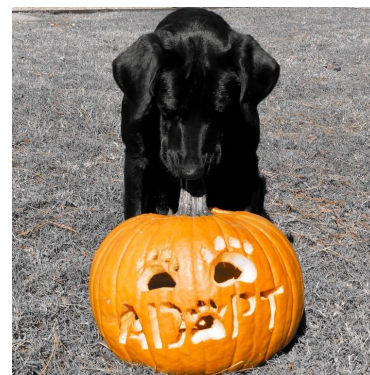
- give them a safe space in your home
- don't force them to interact with guests
- don't bring them to the door to meet trick or treaters
- talk to your vet about medication
- have someone stay with them and support them while you answer the door
- if suitable play some games they enjoy
- consider a trip and stay with friends or family in a quieter location
- provide long lasting chews or similar
- play music to cover the sound of fireworks



Many of these suggestions are valid for nervous dogs, keeping all of dogs safe, for overly excited dogs etc.

FANCY DRESS COSTUMES

We also have to realize that whilst we may want to include our dogs in the Halloween celebrations and festivities which may include dressing up not all our dogs will find this a positive experience.



If your dog struggles to have a harness put on, or coat in colder weather the chances are they won't feel comfortable being dressed up. Many owners may have worked with their dogs so that they look forward to getting their fleece, t-shirt or waterproof coat put on and if that is the case they may be happy to have a new clothing item BUT always introduce the costumes to them, let them investigate and if they show you they are not comfortable, remove the clothing.

There's lots of other ways to get your dog involved in the holiday festivities such as:

- two paws on a pumpkin
- holding a spooky toy
- cute photos with a carved pumpkin

They really can be a great way to learn a new 'trick' and build an even stronger relationship with your dog!!





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WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY DO GET LOST?

There are some simple steps you can take to help ensure your pet does not get lost over the holiday period:

- Ensure fences are secure and that no panels are loose
- Walk them on a leash in unsecured areas
- Attach leashes to collar and harness for extra safety
- Walk at times when trick or treaters are not expected
- Pop them in a room away from the front door

No matter how diligent you are, accidents can happen and our dogs can get lost. Many times it's just an unfortunate combination of events BUT there are several things you can do to get your dog home to you as quickly as possible.

- microchip your dog
- register the microchip and keep details updated
- have their details embroidered on their collar or ID tag
- consider using a GPS collar
- put up lost dog posters
- post on lost and found pet groups using Facebook, Next door and other social media networks
- contact the local shelters

Microchips and Tattoos

Microchips and tattoos are a great way to identify your dog and get them back to you quickly. They are more permanent in nature than collars. It is important to keep your microchip details up to date and that the microchip is functioning correctly.

Although rare microchips can fail so it's a good idea to check its working at your dog's annual vet exam. They can on occasion also migrate in their body to a non standard location. Both of these may cause you to need to get a new microchip.

A tattoo number can be used in a similar way to a microchip but the benefit is that you don't need equipment to read it. They are usually applied on the inner thigh, belly or under the ear. However, there is no international traceability like a microchip so numbers could be duplicated. They can also fade over time or be covered with hair.



Have your vet check that your dog's microchip hasn't moved and that it's still working

Make sure the information on your dog's ID tags or embroidered collar is up to date



Collars

A **standard collar** with an **ID tag** or one with your details embroidered onto it is probably the cheapest form of identification for your dog. When people see a dog with a collar, they generally believe the dog has an owner and someone will be looking for them. Many people may not be aware that dogs can be microchipped or tattooed. If it's safe to do so then your dog should be wearing a collar.



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For some additional cost and potentially a monthly subscription you can acquire a **USB dog tag** or **tag with a QR code**.

Finally you can purchase a **GPS smart collar** that can track your dog. However these are battery operated so battery life is a factor. These also do not typically have your pets details visible so an ID tag would still be required.

However, collars and tags can break or be taken off so its always advisable to have a permanent back up like a microchip or tattoo.

Social Media can be your friend when it comes to being reunited with your pets. Post on your Facebook feed, local neighborhood groups and lost and found pet groups. apps such as Next Door are also a great way to reach more people and the more people see your posts the greater the chance of being quickly reunited with your dog. Remember to keep updating or bumping your post so that it stays at the top of the news feeds.



Lost Dog Posters and Social Media

Posters placed in your neighborhood and surrounding areas can reach a large number of people. Include a good photo of your dog and your contact details. If your dog is nervous of people consider adding '.... is nervous of people so do not approach as they will likely run away. simply contact (add cell number)



Local Shelters

Many shelters have noticeboards where you can place your lost pet posters. It is also advisable to visit every day as you do not know how long after your pet went missing that it arrived at the shelter. Going daily also helps incase they lost their collar, id tags or the microchip failed.

Dogs can travel a long distance when panicked so check all the local shelters not just the one closest to you. If your dog crosses a county line they may end up in a shelter a good distance from your home as many shelters only accept dogs from within their jurisdiction.

PUMPKIN AND GINGER HALLOWEEN COOKIES

APPROVED BY THE 'HAIRY HOARD'

When it comes to the holidays it's fun to have some tasty home made treats for your dogs, in fact you could eat these yourself! Just grab some Halloween or Thanksgiving themed cookie cutters and they are the perfect fall treat!1

YOU WILL NEED

- 2 cups Almond Flour
- 1 cup Tapioca Flour
- 1 cup Coconut Flour
- 2 tablespoons Ginger Puree
- 2 Eggs
- 2 cups Grated Carrot
- 1 tin Canned Pumpkin Puree

TO MAKE

1. Heat oven to 375°F
2. Combine all the ingredients in a bowl
3. Roll out to approx 1/4 inch
4. cut out using cookie cutters
5. Bake for 30 minutes or until light brown.
6. Remove from oven, cool and store in an airtight container

NOTES

When buying your pumpkin puree make sure it is 100% pumpkin. You do not want to buy pumpkin pie filler as it will have lots of added sugar. You can also buy or grow your own pumpkin and make your own puree.

If you want to make smaller treats it is recommended to grate the carrot finely. Cooking time will vary with size and thickness of the cookie.