

Training Your Dog for Halloween

Bone up on leash training tips for your dog in time for Halloween.

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Dogs in costumes may outnumber kids in costumes this Halloween. If you plan to include your leashed dog in the evening's fun, here's how to do it safely:

DO keep slack in the lead anytime your dog isn't pulling.

DO keep excess leash material looped in your hand to avoid tripping.

DO use an appropriate leash and collar or harness to avoid injury to your dog and yourself.

DO clean up after your dog. Irresponsible dog walkers spoil the night for everyone.

DO prevent your dog from rudely greeting others. Not everyone appreciates his exuberant salutations.

DO respect local leash laws, park regulations, and homeowner association rules.

DON'T tether your dog to your waist or arm unless you are confident you're strong enough to restrain him if he pulls. Never tether him to the body of a child or physically challenged walker.

DON'T jerk on your dog's leash to prevent contact with dogs or humans. This can cause aggression. Instead, feed treats to regain his attention.

DON'T take your dog off his leash unless you're in a safely enclosed area, or a wide-open, dog-legal space and your dog comes reliably when called.

DON'T leave your dog tied and unattended, even for just a moment. Your dog is at risk for teasing, tormenting, and theft.

DON'T let your dog soil lawns.

DON'T let your dog pick up dropped candy.

DO have a devilishly good time!