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## Keep your pets safe during Halloween

By **Trisha Gedon**,  
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The neighborhood is teeming with ghosts, goblins, witches and princesses. A big bowl of candy is ready by the front door. Children are excited and ready to go trick-or-treating.

While the children, and parents for that matter, are excited for the yearly tradition of going door to door to collect candy, other members of your household may not be quite as thrilled.

Halloween, although fun for children and adults, can be frightening, and even hazardous, for your pets, said Dr. Elisabeth Giedt, director of Continuing Education, Extension and Community Engagement at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University.

"Your pets can become alarmed with all of the extra activity in your home, your doorbell ringing often and the strange costumes," Giedt said. "A lot of dogs feel they are the guardians or protectors of their home. They may feel threatened when a stranger comes into their area and could possibly bite or scratch someone. It's important for pet owners to make sure they

tally ingesting those Halloween treats, especially the chocolate variety.

Giedt said the cocoa in chocolate can be poisonous for cats and dogs. The darker the chocolate, the more deadly it can be. In addition, Xylitol, an artificial sweetener used in many types of chewing gum and baked goods, has been shown to be poisonous to dogs.

It is not just the candy itself that can pose a danger to your pets.

"Some pets will consume a piece of candy whole, including the wrapper. This can potentially cause an intestinal blockage," she said. "If you believe your pet has consumed candy or any other potentially dangerous foods, contact your veterinarian immediately. A quick response could save your pet's life."

If you have decorations in your home such as balloons, pumpkins or candles, make sure they are not accessible to your pets. An excited animal could knock over a candle and start a fire or suffer burns.

### Identification

With the front door opening and closing many times over the course of the evening, it is vital for your animals to have proper identification in the event they get out of the

## Illustrator to share his talents with families

Special to the Journal  
[news@skiatookjournal.com](mailto:news@skiatookjournal.com)

Peter Brown, a multiple New York Times bestseller, is the featured illustrator for Tulsa City-County Library's 2013 "Books to Treasure," an annual event promoting the beauty of children's literature and introducing the community to popular book illustrators.

Brown will speak, answer questions and sign copies of his books during a special visit on Nov. 8, 7 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St. This event is free and open to the public.

Brown has authored or illustrated 14 books for children and families. His book "The Creepy Carrots" was a 2013 Caldecott Honor Book and a New York Times Bestseller. Other books on the New York Times' Bestseller list include "You Will Be My Friend!" "Children Make Terrible Pets," "The Curious Garden" and "Mr. Tiger Goes Wild."

Brown studied illustration at Art Center College of Design, where his love of both words and pictures led to several courses on children's books. While working on animated TV shows he was hired to write and illustrate his first picture book,

"Flight of the Dodo."

"Books to Treasure" is sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust through a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation. The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation is providing one free copy of Brown's "You Will Be My Friend!" to each second-grader in Tulsa County. Students also have the opportunity to receive a special library card featuring artwork from the book. "You Will Be My Friend" follows Lucy throughout her day on the quest for friendship. After accidentally ruining a giraffe's breakfast and eating a bee's honey-filled home, an unexpected friend finds her and loves her just the way she is.

To enhance the author's visit, Tulsa City-County Library children's librarians have visited second-grade classes at all public and private schools in Tulsa County to promote the program. Librarians spoke with students on the importance of reading and having a library card. Librarians also created specific lesson plans using Brown's books focusing on curriculum areas such as reading, math, writing, science and social studies.

For more information on "Books to Treasure," call the AskUs Hotline, (918) 549-7323, or visit the library's webpage, [www.tulsalibrary.org](http://www.tulsalibrary.org).

It is important for pet owners to make preparations for their animals before Halloween to help keep them from getting scared and confused once all of the activity begins."

**Safe location**

Pet owners may want to consider putting their animals in an area where they will feel safe. This may be in a crate with a favorite toy or treat, or it could be inside a room in the house that is not near all of the activity.

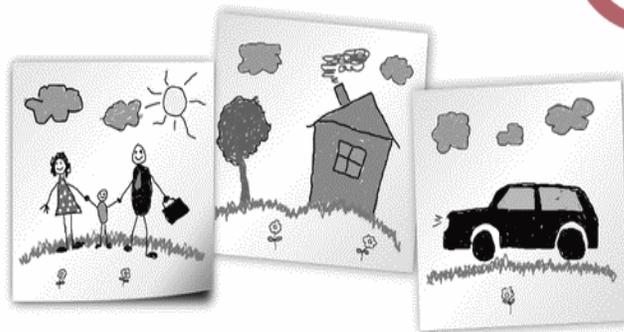
Pet owners also need to be aware of the dangers of animals acciden-

tion in the event they get out of the house. A tag with your name and phone number, or microchip identification, will make it more likely for you to be reunited with your pet.

"Halloween can be a lot of fun for children and adults, but nothing can ruin the fun faster than an emergency trip to the hospital, or to the veterinarian because your pet got into the candy bowl or became scared enough to scratch or bite a trick-or-treater," Giedt said. "Keeping your pet safe during the holiday will help ensure everyone has a fun and memorable evening."

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(but not necessarily in that order)



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Chances to win 2 quilts and 18 themed gift baskets will be sold.

We will be serving hot breakfast casseroles and cinnamon rolls for breakfast and homemade soups and cobblers for lunch. Proceeds from the show support adult missions. Admission is free but we are accepting nonperishable food items for the food pantry.

Faith Lutheran Church 9222 N. Garnett Road, Owasso.  
Contact Rose Rhodes at 918-557-9562 for more information.

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