

## Ensure Your Cats' Safety This Halloween

**CatChannel expert Jeanne Adlon, professional cat sitter, advises extra caution during this holiday.**

*By Jeanne Adlon*

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Q: How do I keep my cat safe on Halloween?

A: I always say Halloween is a treat for kids but tricky for cats, especially if they are extra skittish. I know a petite white kitty with a heart-shaped face named Cameo, who is very sweet and affectionate, but, unlike her sister Muriel, easily spooked. With even the smallest disturbance, Cameo will disappear for hours. Needless to say, Halloween is not her favorite holiday. With every ring of the front doorbell, she'd be traumatized and would spend an unhappy evening shaking under the bed. For Muriel, it was more of a nuisance rather than a terrifying ordeal.

Most cats are not as sensitive to the slightest change in their environment as Cameo, but Halloween is a holiday where all cats, particularly black ones should be safely inside. I suggest designating a special room in the house for them to spend the evening. Put in bedding, food, water, litter and favorite toys, and let them spend the night safely behind a closed door, while you enjoy the fun.

If you can't designate a special room for your kitties, be very careful when trick-or-treaters come to the door. Put a sign on your door asking them to knock softly and avoid using the doorbell if possible. Do not keep the door open too long when handing out candy and always watch to make sure your kitty does not run out — they can be very fast and gone in a moment. Be careful to check on their whereabouts during the evening and pick up any dropped candy from the floor. You do not want your cat eating it.

Lastly, have some fun kitty treats on hand to give your cats after the last trick-or-treaters have gone. I am a big believer in treats and after putting up with Halloween, your cats deserve some good ones!

Jeanne's Tip of the Week:

To prevent your cats from chewing on wires, which we will use more during the holidays, try putting double sided tape on them. More tips

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