



## Adopting Black Cats at Halloween

The Toronto Humane Society finds homes for cats, dogs and special species of all colours throughout the year – including adopting black cats at Halloween.

Black cats are at no greater risk of abuse at Halloween than at any other time of year. In a survey of news reports, the Humane Society of the United States found no correlation between Halloween and animal abuse, and the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals sees no increase in cruelty cases around the holiday.

The Toronto Humane Society screens potential adopters to ensure a good match with the animal, charges an adoption fee and sends every animal home with an embedded microchip. The likelihood of someone with malicious intent successfully adopting an animal is extremely remote.

Halloween does present other risks to cats and dogs, so follow these tips to keep your pets safe:

- When opening the door for trick-or-treaters, make sure your pet doesn't dart outside.
- Keep the decorations and the treats – especially chocolate, raisins and anything sweetened with xylitol – out of reach. Halloween is the Pet Poison Helpline's busiest time of year.
- Costumes are fun for people, but can be dangerous for pets. Wearing a costume can be stressful, while strings and laces can be a choking hazard or get caught on external objects. If your pet loves to dress up, make sure his outfit lets him breathe, drink and move freely.

The safest place for a cat, regardless of colour, is in a loving home. Restricting adoptions at Halloween, rather than protecting black cats, simply keeps them in the shelter. This Halloween, come to the Toronto Humane Society and give yourself a treat – adopt a black cat.