Festive Fall

Tricks and Treats

Your pet may not care about Halloween, but they're probably on board with extra treats. Emma, one of our Behavior Associates, shares ways to celebrate together. Just let your pet's comfort level lead the way.

Seasonal Activities

- **Pick a pumpkin.** Visit a pet-friendly pumpkin patch for a sniff-filled outing.
- **Play in the leaves.** Explore a leafy trail or hide toys and treats in a fresh pile in your yard.
- **Bring the festivities home.** For cats who prefer their own haunt, set up a photo backdrop with seasonal decor and Halloween cat toys.

Treats

- **Pumpkin, hold the pie.** Plain pumpkin puree can add fall flavor to dog treats, lick mats, and Kongs. Check the label to avoid pie filling.
- **Brew a catnip "potion."** Steep plain catnip in hot water, let it cool completely, and offer your cat a little tea.

Tricks

- **Show off those bat ears.** Reward your dog whenever their ears perk up, then add an "ears up" cue once they get the hang of it.
- **Play dead.** A Halloween classic that cats can learn, too. Their willingness to perform for tiny zombies? Less predictable.
- **Practice recall.** Brush up on coming when called before trick-or-treaters arrive. (And make sure your pet is microchipped.)

Safety Tips for Halloween Night

- **Create a quiet retreat.** Strange costumes and doorbell duty can be a lot. Set up a room with water, a bed, toys, and a hiding spot, plus a litter box for cats.
- **Keep temptations out of reach.** Candy, wrappers, and decorations can turn into what Emma calls "a very un-festive kind of scary."
- **Double up on barriers.** Keep two barriers between pets and the front door while handing out candy, even for confident, well-trained pets.
- **Let your pet choose their look.** If costumes aren't their thing, try a comfortable seasonal bandana or collar. Brioche, pictured left, is already in character: "Do you wanna play?"