



**POOOH
BUSTERS**



**We Take the Crap,
So You Don't Have To!**



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Monthly Scoop

Let the Holiday Season Begin!

Once again the time of year is starting to roll around where we enjoy the holidays, celebrate the seasons and eat tons of food. So much for our struggle to eat right and exercise! Mrs. Big Nate and I always enjoy the last three months of the year as they are the most fun and festive but at the same time, we dread it. We have struggled over the past year and a half to enhance our lifestyle with good nutrition and more activity. This time of year always throws a wrench in that machine. None the less, we have succeeded to lose over 80 lbs each. I'm sure by January, we'll have gained 10 lbs back, just to start all over again in 2010. But what fun it will be getting there!

Anyway the point is, Thanksgiving and Halloween seem to kick off the holiday seasons of endless good food, sinful baking and sweets galore! This can be awesome for us but can have some bad side effects for our pooches. It's hard to not include them in all the festivities and food, but as for us as humans, the same holds true for them. Some things are ok as long as it is in moderation.

Let's include our family pets in this season's celebrations but be sure not feed them too much and in some cases, nothing at all!

Some foods are just not right for our dogs to be eating at all and this time of year there is an abundance of these types of foods. Let's take a look at what foods are taboo so we can make sure to keep Fido from getting sick,

requiring a trip to our vet where they will shake a finger at us for not being more responsible to our dog's health.

Foods our dogs should never eat:

- **Alcoholic Beverages** - if Rover gets a hold of too much of this, he might experience intoxication, coma or even death.
- **Bones (especially Thanksgiving Turkey bones)** - poultry and fish bones can cause obstruction and lacerations of their digestive systems.
- **Chocolate and Caffeine** - these things can be toxic and affect their heart and nervous systems.
- **Grapes and Raisins** - Who knew? They contain unknown toxins that can damage the kidneys.
- **Macadamia Nuts** - again an unknown toxin that affects the digestive and nervous systems.
- **Table Scraps (in large amounts)** - are not nutritionally balanced. They should never be more than 10% of the diet. Fat should be trimmed from meat; bones should not be fed.

This is really just a partial list but it's a good start. So let's enjoy the upcoming holiday months and enjoy ourselves. Include your pets in any way you can because after all, they are a part of our family and our lives. Have fun, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Halloween!

NEWSLETTER

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Did you know:

- ☺ ...that Pooh Busters now accepts Visa, Mastercard and American Express as forms of payment for their service?
- ☺ ...that if you do choose to pay by cheque, there is a \$50 fee for any NSF cheques?
- ☺ ...that Pooh Busters has supported the Calgary Humane Society by making a generous donation to the 2010 Celebrity Calendar? Be sure to help them out by purchasing one!

Poooper of the Month

Poooh Busters is proud to present **Kuai** as October's Poooper of the Month!



Online Payments a Success!

Last month we announced our launch of online payments. We are excited to see that it has been a wonderful success. It seems that so many of our loyal clients have found this new feature easy and convenient.

In fact we are going to enhance our online payment proc-

ess even more! Soon you will have the ability to also use a form of debit card payment called "Interac Online". You will not only have the option of using a credit card but you will be able to process a payment directly from your bank account. So if you wish to add credits to your weekly service,

you don't have to rely on using credit. Also, we will be moving away from Paypal, giving us the ability to have even more payment options available. More to come on this next month.

Thank you all very much for helping make this service a success! Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Want your pooch to be showcased on our website and in this newsletter?

Email Big Nate and get your dog featured!

Now accepting pictures and bios for 2010.

BigNate@PooohBusters.com

Halloween Safety For Dogs

Halloween can be a scary time for everyone but especially so for our dogs and cats! Strange people coming to the door and yelling. Everyone wearing those crazy outfits making us appear larger than we are or as if we were someone else. These things can stress our animals out! What are some things we can do to make it less frightening for them?

- Walk your dog before trick-or-treaters start their visits. Keep a firm grip on the leash; many dogs are frightened by people in costumes.
- Find a secure place in your home to keep your dogs, especially if you're giving out candy to trick-or-treaters. Many dogs get loose when the door opens, and the presence of little (and big) costumed people often scares animals, increasing the chance dogs will run away or get hit by cars
- Make sure your dog is wearing an up-to-date I.D. tag.
- If you want to have your dog near the door to greet visitors, keep him on leash. Pets can become very stressed by holiday activities and unwelcome interruptions in routine. A nervous dog might feel threatened and growl, lunge or bite.
- Keep dogs indoors. It's a bad idea to leave dogs out in the yard; in addition to the parade of holiday celebrants frightening and agitating them, there have been reports of taunting, poisonings and pet thefts. Plus they're likely to bark and howl at the constant flow of trick-or-treaters.
- Keep dogs out of the candy bowl. Dispose of candy wrappers before your pets get to them, since the wrappers can cause choking or intestinal obstruction. Make sure the dogs can't get into the trash. Don't forget what I said about chocolate!
- Make sure pets can't reach other items like jack-o-lanterns, decorations or ornaments.
- If you want to dress your dog up,, make sure the they can breathe, see and hear, and that the costume is flame retardant. Remove any small or dangling accessories that could be chewed and swallowed. Avoid rubber bands, which can cut off the animal's circulation or, if accidentally left on, can burrow and cut into the animal's skin.
- When walking dogs during or after Halloween, watch carefully for what they might pick up and choke on. Bits of candy and wrappers abound on sidewalks and streets.
- If you notice these symptoms of chocolate poisoning, go to your vet or an emergency vet right away because your pet's life may be in danger:
 - Excessive drooling
 - Excessive urination
 - Pupil dilation
 - Rapid heartbeat
 - Vomiting and diarrhea
 - Hyperactivity
 - Muscle tremors and seizures
 - Coma



Top Ten Dog Costumes

10. **Cop & Prisoner** - These cute costumes are perfect if you have a pair of dogs and want them to be dressed alike. Have your "good" dog be the cop and your "bad" dog be the prisoner.



9. **Dinosaur** - Does your dog manage to ruin everything in your house and sometimes you think you are living with a huge dinosaur? With this costume you'll have your own dog-o-saurus.

8. **Lady Bug** - Are you taking Halloween pictures in a garden or going to a backyard party? The lady bug costume for dogs will be perfect for this event.



7. **Wedding Dress & Tuxedo** - Whether they are wearing these for Halloween or another special day in their life, a wedding dress and tuxedo dog costume will turn some heads.



6. **Princess** - These costumes are only fit for a princess. No other costume will do with the special dogs that get to wear this Halloween night.



5. **Bumble Bee** - These costumes don't even sting! This pet costume is perfect for males or females and is an all time classic.



4. **Pirate** - Arrggg! Is your dog the toughest in the neighborhood? A pirate costume will surely make them wag there tail extra that night.



3. **Devil** - This costume is perfect for those dogs that have a little extra evil in them. Or if your dog is an angel and want to spice them up for one night.



2. **Lobster** - Perfect for those in fishing towns. Just because you dress your dog up as a lobster for Halloween, doesn't mean they will pinch!



1. **Hot Dog** - At Halloween, not only dachshunds get to be wiener dogs. Get your dog a costume that makes them look like a hot dog. Available with mustard or ketchup as a topping!

