

Black Cat Safety

Anyone who has a black cat knows they are incredibly lovable, playful, gentle and absolutely stunning. Unfortunately, even in these modern times, there are some people who don't like black cats because of years of myths and folklore associating them with black magic, bad luck and superstitions.

So, how do these misconceptions affect current adoption rates and shelter occupations for black cats? The ASPCA reports that black cats are the least likely to be adopted in shelters across the United States and the majority of cats in shelters at any given time are among the 21 breeds of black cats. While there is no concrete answer as to why these gorgeous felines are last picked, many believe that the belief of bad luck as well as the fact that they are harder to see in contrast to the brightly-colored kitties in the shelters have something to do with the lack of interest. Despite there being so many black cats, they don't stand out in the crowd.

The stigma attached to black cats often puts them as targets for pranksters. Black cats have historically suffered cruelty and abuse during the Halloween season. While folklore has driven gruesome activity to these precious animals, often, these days, the behavior smacks much more of psychopathic behavior rather than the traditional fear-based actions of our ancestors.



Each year crimes against cats are reported in October, yet most seem to be forgotten by the time the season rolls around again. The following are ways to keep your black cat (or any cat) safe during this particularly merciless time of year.

1. It is important to keep your cats (especially black cats) indoors for the entire month of October. This is particularly crucial at night when most of the harassment and sadistic behavior to these animals occurs.
2. Always have bright collars on your cat to indicate that they belong to a family and have a home. Despite the evil behavior some individuals display, surprisingly enough, they do have an occasional bout of conscience and won't bother a cat that is owned.
3. Even if you are not a cat owner, be sure to keep an eye out for unusual or suspicious behavior.
4. During the hours trick-or-treaters come to the door, be sure to keep your pets closed off in a separate room so they cannot run out the door. The constant knocking and door-ringing can be stressful for cats and dogs alike. They are more likely to run out the door out of fright even though it is the worst direction for them to go. Keep them safe by keeping them in a crate or away from the door.

Despite the stigma, black cats are playful, attention-seeking, sweet and loving pets. Their personalities have been displayed in shows such as Sabrina the Teenage Witch, The Simpsons, Star Trek, Hocus Pocus and Coraline. These movies and television shows portray the cats as the fun, adorable kitties they are. Hopefully, the more awareness and attention the issue of Black Cat Appreciation and safety can get, the more people will discover just how wonderful these cats truly are.

Additional resources (click on links for more info)

<https://aanifeira.wordpress.com/2013/02/17/breaking-the-stigma-for-black-dogs-cats>

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/life/pets/black-cats-dark-myths-bad-luck-and-truth-behind-it-all>

<http://www.xojane.com/issues/black-dog-syndrome-bias>