

2026 DOG AND CAT COSTUME CONTEST

RULES & DETAILS

Description: Let your faithful companion join in the fun by entering your dog in this year's Canine Costume Contest! Come on out with your dog and let Irvington learn just how adorable your costumed cutie can be!

For our feline friends, we will have an online contest and voting. Put that puss in boots and let them shine like the star they are!

Canine Costume Contest:

Registration:

- Day of the Street Fair, October 31, 2026.
- Located in the parking lot of the Indy Cycle Specialist, 5804 E Washington Street.
- Advanced registration online www.irvingtonhalloween.com/contests begins October 2, 2026, at 9A.M. and ends October 29, 2026, at 5P.M. entrants are encouraged to register early to avoid long lines!
- **Late registration and packet pickup begins at 10:00A.M.** The final registration deadline is 11:00A.M. – The Adult/Dog category entrants MUST be in judging area by 11:15A.M. sharp! The Kid/Dog category entrants must be in the judging area at 12:45PM.

Entry Fee: FREE

Contest Details:

- There will be TWO Categories for the Costume Contest:
Adult/Dog and Child/Dog.
 - The Adult/Dog category is split into two separate rounds.
The first round begins at **11:30AM.** and the second round begins at **12:15PM.**
- Pets must be leashed and present with their adult owner at the Street Fair to be judged,
- All canine entrants must be up to date of with canine vaccines and must be able to provide proof of vaccination upon request.
- Entrants must be registered no later than **11:00A.M.** - **Judging begins promptly at 11:15 A.M. Adults are the first category judged.**
- Participant's number must be pinned to the owner and visible to the judges.
- **Participants and dogs are encouraged to be a part of the Marty Powell Costume Parade!**
- Winners in both canine and feline categories will be announced from

the main stage at **1PM**. Winners will be emailed to collect their prize.

- All pets will pose for a photo. Winners' name and photo will be included in our post-event press releases, Halloween Street Fair website, and on future promotional flyers.

Contest Rules:

- Only dogs are eligible to enter the live contest. No other animals will be allowed in the judging area.
- **Dogs that are not well-behaved will be disqualified and asked to leave.**
 - **Determination of "well-behaved" is at the sole discretion of the judges.**
- No puppies under 4 months or without vaccinations.
- Rabies and vaccinations must be current.
- Dogs must wear collars with I.D. tags at all times.
- No dogs in heat.
- No aggressive dogs.
- Please pick up after your dog.
- Costumes must be safe and comfortable for dogs.

Failure to abide by any of these rules will result in disqualification with dog(s) and owner(s) being asked to leave the area.

Judging Criteria:

- Entrants will be judged on costume and behavior for creativity, humor, character, charisma, uniqueness and talent.
- Matching human and dog costumes are encouraged.
- The judges' decisions will be final.

Cat Online-Costume Contest:

Registration:

- Your photo with contact information must be emailed/submitted to [IrvingtonPetCostumeContest@gmail](mailto:IrvingtonPetCostumeContest@gmail.com) or online www.irvingtonhalloween.com/contests by October 28th, 2026 at 5PM to be considered. Any photo posted to the event page by a contestant will be removed.
- All photos will be reviewed by the Pet Costume Contest judges on the October 31, 2026, during the Halloween Festival.

Entry Fee: FREE

Contest Details:

- There will be TWO Categories for the Costume Contest: Cat(s) and Kitten(s). The term kitten means a cat younger than 2 years of age.
- Judging is based solely on the photo submitted, live judging will NOT OCCUR.
- Winners in both canine and feline categories will be announced from the main stage after the parade is complete (1PM) with the winning photo posted to the Irvington Halloween Instagram and Facebook account.
- Winners' name and photo will be included in our post-event press releases and on our website, and on future promotional events.

Contest Rules:

- Only cats are eligible to enter the contest. While your feline friend can have a non-cat compadre, non-feline animals will not be considered during judging.
- Costumes must be safe and comfortable for cats.
- Animals may not be placed in unsafe or uncomfortable situations.
- Images must be submitted in JPEG, TIFF, or PDF. Inappropriately formatted photos will be reformatted at the discretion of the Contest Manager (meaning every attempt will be taken, but she's no IT department).

Failure to abide by any of these rules will result in disqualification of cat(s) contestants.

Judging Criteria:

- Entrants will be judged on costume and behavior for creativity, humor, character, charisma, uniqueness and talent.
- Matching human and cat costumes are encouraged.
- The judges' decisions will be final.