



## Trick or sweet

Story and photos by Rebecca Unger

Hi-Desert Star

**YUCCA VALLEY** — Kids and critters had a day of happy haunting at Saturday's annual Spooktacular and Howl-oween Pet Parade. The Hi-Desert Nature Museum overflowed with merry mayhem as little goblins were indulged with special games, crafts and treats. The town's community center courtyard was a scene of pet pageantry, with prize costume categories for the animal and human masqueraders.

Mixing fun and fantasy for kids and their furry friends is a sure way to cast a spell of Halloween magic. Abracadabra!



Cacklin' cauldrons! Dallas and Dylan Doten of Joshua Tree are more curious than curdled as they peer into the fring depths of this wickedly witchy brew.



Geisha girls Deja Valeur and Tink of Morongo Valley make friends with pretty poodle Barbie, the new Sandy Paws Pet Grooming mascot.



The Most Original award at the pet parade went to fiddler Ellie Schroder, her sister Hannah and pooch Grace of Joshua Tree.



Yucca Valley's Jade Sarchit as Little Red Riding Hood and rescue dog Nellie Girl as the Wolf That Ate Grandma win Best Do-It-Yourself costume honors.



Yucca Valley duo Rupert the teacup pig and his human, Jill Steiner, enchant the judges for the best animal/owner look-alike prize.



PJ of Joshua Tree rocks the banana split costume. "He gave me 'the look' when I first put him in it," admits his human, Sarah Case.

Lacy "Pocahontas" Lenniger of Yucca Valley checks out the Spooktacular goodies, but says she prefers a Snickers bar to cemetery dirt as a treat.

