

Mushroom Toxicity

Mushroom poisoning occurs as a result of ingesting toxic mushrooms. Not all mushrooms are poisonous, but each type of poisonous mushroom can cause different signs of illness. Poisonous mushrooms are classified into four main categories, based on the clinical signs they cause, or into seven categories, based on the toxins they contain. The onset of clinical signs may occur anywhere from minutes to hours following ingestion.

Mushroom toxicity is most commonly associated with curious puppies.

What to Watch For

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- [Abdominal pain](#)
- Lethargy
- Jaundice (yellow skin color)
- [Seizures](#)
- Coma
- Excess salivation

Diagnosis

When poisonous mushroom ingestion is suspected, initial blood tests are done to evaluate the overall health of the dog.

High liver and [kidney](#) enzymes may be seen 24 to 48 hours after ingestion of certain mushrooms, together with [low blood sugar](#) and blood [potassium](#) levels.

While these are not specific for mushroom poisoning, when coupled with known ingestion or at least suspicion of ingestion, they should alert you to the possibility.

Since there is no specific test for mushroom poisoning, identification of mushroom parts in the vomit or stomach contents is the only definitive means for making a diagnosis of mushroom poisoning.

Treatment

Treatment varies, and largely depends on the specific mushroom that has been ingested and potential clinical signs associated with the mushroom. One or more of the following may be recommended.

- Induction of [vomiting](#)
- Administration of activated charcoal (to absorb mushroom/toxin)
- Fluid [therapy](#) to maintain hydration
- Treatment for kidney or [liver failure](#) if it develops
- Treatment for seizures when present

Home Care and Prevention

There is no adequate home care for poisonous mushroom ingestion. If you suspect that your dog has eaten a dangerous mushroom, contact your veterinarian immediately.

The best way to prevent ingestion of poisonous mushrooms is to keep your dog away from mushrooms. Periodically check your yard and remove any mushrooms, and do not allow your dog to roam unattended through the neighborhood.