



PAW HEALTH NETWORK, INC.

MUSHROOM INTOXICATION

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Mushroom intoxication is a result of ingesting wild or foraged mushrooms. There are many types of mushrooms in the wild, some of which are safe for human consumption, but are not safe for canine or feline ingestion.

In general, most **mushroom** toxicities cause severe gastrointestinal symptoms, including vomiting and diarrhea (either with or without blood present).

In more specific cases, certain types of **mushrooms** can cause neurologic effects including, disorientation, weakness, incoordination, collapse, and even death.

Others may cause severe liver injury, resulting in liver failure and spontaneous hemorrhage.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

There are no specific tests for **mushroom** intoxication.

A thorough clinical history and physical examination with a veterinarian typically yield a presumptive diagnosis. Please be sure to inform the veterinary staff of mushrooms on accessible property.

Routine laboratory testing will help identify liver injury, coagulation problems, blood loss, or systemic dehydration.

TREATMENT

As with most toxicities, if caught within the first two hours, vomiting can be induced to evacuate the stomach. Although there has been no proven benefit with the administered activated charcoal to bind residual intoxicant in the digestive tract.

If any symptoms are present, they will require more specific therapy, but almost all **mushroom** intoxication patients will require hospitalization, IV (intravenous) fluid support, liver support or protection, and management for bloody diarrhea and vomit.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888.426.4435) for immediate triage of toxicities.
- Seek immediate care for interventional therapies.
- Bring in sample of mushroom ingested for veterinary review; or if you know the type of mushroom, inform the veterinarian upon initial examination.
- Prevention is key - clear any accessible property of any mushrooms.