



## MYCOTOXICOSIS

### ABOUT THE DISEASE

**Mycotoxicoeses** are complex intoxications that are severe and potentially deadly caused by the ingestion of moldy foods, compost, or wild mushrooms.

The toxins, or “**mycotoxins**” can cause severe gastrointestinal, liver and/or neurologic symptoms. These signs include vomiting or vomiting blood, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, incoordination, heart arrhythmias, excessive salivation (drooling), tremors and seizures.

In some instances, clinical signs may develop within as little as 1-2 hours after ingestion but may be delayed by several hours.

### OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

There are no specific tests for **mycotoxins**, so the veterinary team relies upon a thorough clinical history and physical examination to yield a preliminary diagnosis. Please be sure to inform the veterinary staff of any possible exposure to moldy food, mushrooms or decomposing organic material.

### TREATMENT

Almost all **mycotoxicity** patients require hospitalization. The key is management of symptoms and often requires immediate hospitalization and treatments. In tremor patients, a muscle relaxant (methocarbamol) is often used to temporarily alleviate symptoms, whereas seizure medications (diazepam/levetiracetam) are reserved for severe cases and seizure patients. Activated charcoal may be beneficial to absorb toxic material. Other supportive therapy like IV fluids and steroids may also be needed.

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Seek immediate care for interventional therapies.
- Be sure to dispose of food waste and compost away from accessible areas.
- Remove all mushrooms from your yard or accessible areas, be diligent, they grow fast!