

## Mushrooms:

There are various types of mushrooms located throughout the United States that may be non-toxic; however, other types of mushrooms may be very dangerous and include general groups that are gastric irritants, hallucinogenic, or hepatotoxic (from cyclopeptides, hydrazine toxins, isoxazoles, or psilocybin compounds). The latter group includes Amanita mushrooms, which can result in acute hepatic necrosis (i.e., liver failure).

While the frequency of dangerous mushroom toxicity is likely very low, the lack of readily available identification of mushrooms lands all ingestions in the category of toxic until proven otherwise. With ingestion of any mushroom, immediate emesis is recommended, provided the animal is alert, asymptomatic, and able to adequately protect his or her upper airway. Gastric lavage may be necessary for animals already exhibiting clinical signs. Clinical symptoms are dependent on the species of mushroom ingested, the specific toxin within that mushroom, and the individual's own susceptibility. Early clinical signs include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, ataxia, depression, tremors, and seizures, with liver and renal damage occurring later. One can collect all the pieces of the mushroom in a paper towel, place them in a labeled (DO NOT EAT! POISONOUS) paper bag, and refrigerate the sample for future possible identification. If you see your dog eat a mushroom, contact your veterinarian or **Pet Poison Helpline** immediately! Better yet, make sure to scour your yard frequently and get rid of any mushrooms growing out there!



## Are onions poisonous to dogs?

**Onions, garlic, chives and leeks (Allium species):** When onions and garlic are ingested in large or chronic amounts, it can result in Heinz body formation and anemia. Cats are more sensitive than dogs to Allium toxicosis. Clinical signs are generally secondary to the anemia, with resultant weakness, lethargy and pale mucous membranes. Avoid using onion or garlic powder chronically in pet food, and make sure your pet doesn't ingest large amounts!

**What it's in:** The small amount of garlic sometimes found in dog treats is unlikely to be harmful to dogs. However, if cats or dogs ingest a tasty pan of sautéed onions, garlic, or leeks, poisoning may result. The ingestion of large numbers of garlic pills or powder may also cause poisoning. Garlic was once thought of as a "home remedy" for flea infestations; however, it has been shown to be ineffective and is not recommended by **Pet Poison Helpline**.

**Threat to pets:** These vegetables can cause red blood cell destruction (specifically, Heinz body formation) and result in anemia. Ingestions of onions or garlic of > 0.5% of dog's body weight are potentially toxic. For example, this would equate to a 30lb dog ingesting about 2.5 ounces of onion or garlic. Cats and Japanese breeds of dogs (Akita, Shiba Inu, etc..) are even more sensitive to the effects of these plants.

**Signs:** Onion/garlic smell on breath, lethargy, pale mucous membranes (due to anemia), tachypnea (elevated respiratory rate), tachycardia (elevated heart rate), vomiting, and a reduced appetite. Rarely, hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

**Treatment:** Induce vomiting and give activated charcoal to decontaminate. Check a PCV (packed cell volume) or blood smears daily to evaluate anemia, blood transfusions if severe anemia. Intravenous dextrose (sugar) if needed.

**Prognosis:** Excellent with early intervention and appropriate care.

