

## All Puppy Bulletin

Subject: Mushrooms

Mushrooms are our favorite fungus, enjoyed in dishes from burgers to salads. But not every mushroom is edible; some can poison dogs and make humans very ill.

Toxic wild mushrooms grow throughout North America. Although they represent a small percentage of all mushrooms, they can tempt curious dogs when they pop up in the yard seemingly overnight. Different toxic mushrooms affect different organs. Merely chewing on a poisonous mushroom can make a dog sick with diarrhea and vomiting, kidney or liver failure, brain swelling, breathing difficulties and inability of the blood to clot – and can result in death. According to the ASPCA, about half of all fatal mushroom poisonings in dogs are attributed to the Amanita species, also called 'death cap', prevalent in the Pacific Northwest but also found in dense forest areas in the Northeast.

If you suspect that your puppy has eaten a wild mushroom, contact your Region Coordinator and keep a sample of the mushroom for your vet to analyze. The best prevention is to keep your puppy away from mushrooms.