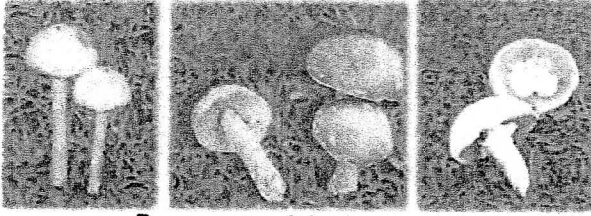


# Mushrooms - Deadly Poisons in Your Own Backyard

Many pet owners do not realize that some of the mushrooms that grow in their yard are toxic to dogs. Symptoms of mushroom poisoning can range from mild vomiting and diarrhea to severe digestive problems to complete liver failure.



Poisonous Mushrooms

Dogs who like to "graze" will sometimes eat wild mushrooms along with lawn grasses, leading to mushroom poisoning. Dogs can sometimes become ill by just licking a poisonous mushroom. Also, some dogs, like some people, are allergic to even edible, normally safe mushrooms.

**If your dog has eaten poisonous mushrooms and you catch him in the act...**

**You actually see the dog starting to eat them....**

- Remove any pieces from the dog's mouth, and....
- Induce vomiting with either -

Syrup of ipecac (1 teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight), or... Hydrogen Peroxide 3% - 1 tablespoon every 10 minutes, repeat 3 times.

- Call your veterinarian.

**If your dog has eaten poisonous mushrooms, but there is short delay in realizing what has happened...**

- Save the specimens for identification.
- Call your veterinarian or take your dog to a nearby emergency veterinary hospital immediately.

**If your dog has eaten poisonous mushrooms, and symptoms have already begun....**

- Take your dog to a nearby emergency veterinary hospital immediately.

## What to Watch For

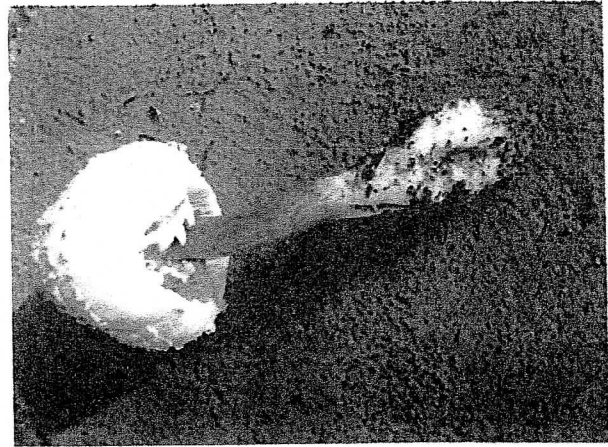
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- [Abdominal pain](#)
- Lethargy
- Jaundice (yellow skin color)
- Seizures
- Coma
- Excess salivation

## 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.

## Poisonous Mushroom



Green-spored *Leptiota* (*Chlorophyllum molybdites*)

This mushroom is the most common cause of wild mushroom poisoning in North America! These are the type of mushrooms that plague my yard and are poisonous to my furkids. It has been very difficult to pluck them before the dogs ingest them. They have gotten several and thank God they vomit within minutes. If they hadn't they could go into liver failure. Till mushroom season ends no more free access out the doggie door. My gratitude in identifying this health hazard to my pugs goes to Mr. David Fisher. If you need to identify a particular species you can browse through [David Fisher's American Mushrooms](#) Update: 7/10/2007, We have since applied Weed/Grass killer to the entire lawn section to try and stop any poisoning. Unfortunately like the mushroom expert man said, the only way to eliminate them is to eliminate the lawn itself. Priorities reign!

## Protect Your Pets...

Always watch for mushrooms in areas where you walk your dogs or where they run and play. Be especially cautious of parasol-shaped mushrooms and all small brown mushrooms. Check your yard each morning, especially in damp weather, for new growth before letting your dog outside. Remember that new mushrooms can appear overnight. Whenever you find mushrooms in your yard, dig them up. Smashing or kicking them spreads the spores and even more will grow.

It can be very difficult to tell the difference between poisonous and edible mushrooms, and even harder to describe them over the telephone.



[See Larger Image](#)

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.