



*fanzine*



## MUSHROOM WARNING WITH DR. KK



- While the abundant rain this summer has allowed us to enjoy cooler weather, beautiful green scenery, and fewer wildfires it has also brought a new danger to our pets. In the last few weeks, we have seen a dramatic uptick in patients with suspected mushroom poisoning. There are a myriad of mushroom species around Summit County making identification very difficult, it is best to assume that all are toxic to some degree. The degree of toxicity can vary based on the type and the number of mushrooms ingested. It is easiest to break down toxicity and clinical signs into 4 main groups based on which organs they affect.
1. **Gastrointestinal toxins:** Many species cause gastrointestinal signs. Fortunately, this tends to be the mildest form of intoxication. Pets can start to show clinical signs like nausea, vomiting, dehydration, and weakness anywhere from 15 minutes to 6 hours after ingestion. Some pets may require hospitalization to help rehydrate them and medications to stop vomiting. In very severe cases these mushrooms can cause bradycardia/ slow heart rate and respiratory depression.
  2. **Neurotoxic toxins:** These mushrooms cause seizure like clinical signs and have a very rapid onset. Onset can be 15 minutes to 6 hours after ingestion with an average of 30 minutes. Dogs who have ingested mushrooms with these toxins tend to become weak, ataxic/uncoordinated, have mild to severe muscle tremors, can vocalize, and become highly agitated. These pets can develop secondary kidney and liver.
  3. **Hepatotoxic toxins:** These are mushrooms with toxins that can damage the liver. Pets who have ingested these types of mushrooms often do not show clinical signs until several hours after ingestion (6-13 hours). Pets may start to show GI signs, develop jaundice (yellowing of the whites of eyes, gums, and skin), weakness, lethargy, and may become comatose in severe cases. These pets must be treated aggressively with hospitalization and fluids.
  4. **Nephrotoxic toxins:** These are mushrooms with toxins that damage the kidneys. Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, and dehydration. Fortunately, these species are not common to our area. Unfortunately, clinical signs can take anywhere from 12 hours to a week or so to develop.

# MUSHROOM WARNING WITH DR. KK (PT. 2)

What you can do:

First, never assume your dog or cat won't eat a mushroom. Animals will nibble on just about anything; just ask any veterinarian or veterinary technician.

Second, check your property. Remove any mushrooms you find and dispose of them in fully sealed containers. If you do not wish to remove all mushrooms from your property there are a number of Facebook groups and phone apps that can help you identify which mushrooms are safe and which are toxic. Third, if you see your pet eating a mushroom, try to get them to spit out as much as possible (please do so safely and avoid getting yourself hurt/bitten). Then contact a professional immediately. This may be one of us, or animal poison control. Be patient with veterinarians, there are so many species of mushrooms and we just don't know all of them. It may be helpful if you can bring in a sample of the mushroom for identification purposes. There is a Facebook group dedicated to identification of toxic plants and mushrooms where you can post photos of the mushrooms (Poison Help; Emergency Identification For Mushrooms & Plants). If you choose to use this group please follow their rules, they are volunteers dedicating their own time and knowledge.



What to expect at your visit:

We will likely take your pet directly to the back for triage. We will recommend blood work to check kidney and liver values. We may need to repeat blood work several times over the next week or so. An IV catheter and intravenous fluids can help flush the body of toxins and support the kidneys, liver, heart, and blood pressure. If your pet is experiencing vomiting and diarrhea, they may be given IV anti-nausea medications. Several of the patients we have seen recently have severe muscle tremors. Unfortunately, these patients often require 24-hour hospitalization, a CRI (continuous rate infusion) of muscle relaxants, and may need to be on oxygen. If your pet is severely ill we will likely refer them to a 24-hour care facility in Denver that are equipped to care for patients on a 24-hour basis. Enjoy the weather but keep your furry friends safe.



## FUREVER REMEMBER BANDETTIE PHILLIPS

Today, we celebrate the life of sweet "Bandette" Phillips.

Bandette came into our lives at FAH and into her owner's life at the later age of 11 in 2018. Her owner, Pat, brought her home from the Summit County Animal Shelter with her 'brother,' Satchel. With them both being older Daschunds, we knew we had to keep an eye out for any health issues that might not have been previously addressed...but this was of ZERO concern because they now had a mom that would take care of anything.

Pat was dedicated to both of them from the very start. Bandette's first visit with us revealed kennel cough. Shortly after during her wellness exam we discovered some kidney and dental issues, which mom jumped on treating. Bandette was very comfortable and happy for a long while until her body told her it was enough. Losing her at 14 years old was heart breaking, but we are so happy to celebrate the great end of life she enjoyed with her perfect family.

A huge thank you to Pat for adopting and loving a senior dog! We are blessed to have you as a client.



## FRISCO FUN FACT



### **Frisco Fun Facts** **Featuring: Dr. German**

As one of his many outdoor activities, Dr. German races alpine snowboards!





## HOSPITAL NEWS

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



We have TWO birthdays this month at FAH!

Happy Birthday to our Hospital Manager, Christina, and our amazing Dr. KK! We hope you have an awesome day celebrating YOU!



### WIN A FREE KAYAK!!

We're back at it. You all loved our last Kayak promo, so we are doing it again!

For the month of August, sign your pet up for one of our PAW Plans and get entered to win a free kayak!!







## HOSPITAL NEWS

VOTE FOR US

in the 2021 Best of Summit as  
your favorite Veterinarian!



**HEY  
MOM**

*work with us*



WE ARE HIRING!

If you, or someone you know,  
has veterinary  
technician/assistant experience,  
send a resume and cover letter  
to [christina.hurley@nva.com](mailto:christina.hurley@nva.com)

It is construction season!!

As another reminder, the  
construction in Frisco is proving  
to contribute to travel delays.  
Please be sure to give yourself  
extra time to get to your pets  
appointment!





# INDUSTRY UPDATES

## COVID and Your Pets!

Veterinary Practice News reports "Whether or not dogs with SARS-CoV-2 infection become ill is less clear. Given the limited testing, we cannot say for certain, but relevant clinical symptoms have not consistently been reported in dogs testing positive. Similarly, there is little direct evidence to determine whether or not dogs can spread COVID-19. The situation is a bit different with cats. Early on, it was considered likely cats would be susceptible to COVID-19 based on previous evidence of susceptibility to the related coronaviruses.<sup>13</sup> Experimental studies in which cats are deliberately exposed to the COVID-19 virus and surveys of cats in households where people have had COVID-19 have consistently shown cats do get infected with this virus. It is unclear how commonly cats show clinical symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection. Finally, there is not yet any evidence cats can spread COVID-19 to humans."



For more information, visit  
[veterinarypracticenews.com](http://veterinarypracticenews.com)



# LOCAL SHOUTOUT



## SUMMIT LOST PET RESCUE

### QUINN & FINLEY MISSING 6/25/21-6/26/21

Two Sweet dogs, Quinn & Finley, were lost from their home in Frisco and the owner notified us right away, so we started our search protocols. (neon signs and scent station) We found out the next day that they were seen in Silverthorne at 1am!!! The owner notified the police and we got our volunteers involved to help search. LOTS of sightings came in very quickly and we followed up on every lead. Our volunteers Jenny & Erica saw the woman who had the dogs and were able to recover them safely and returned to owner. What a GREAT team effort with the help of our volunteers, the owners, police, Summit Community and animal control and shelter, we followed leads and had a happy ending! We are so relieved they are back home!!! Great work team!



**Read this success story,  
and more, at  
[lostpetrescue.org](http://lostpetrescue.org)**