



# ANIMAL CRACKERS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ~ AUGUST 2024

## Sponsored Adoptions Saved the Day By Kathy Bandy

A sweet lady and her 9-yr old grandson came in looking for 2 kitties, so Hollie took her to view what we had to offer.

During their visit, Hollie must have mentioned our fees and Hollie came back with the potential adopters and asked if we had a 2-for-1 special going on.

I replied “no” and left it at that. Then a light kicked on and I remembered a VERY KIND & GENEROUS person that donated for 5 kitties to get adopted so I offered the sponsored adoption to them.

The interaction between the grandma and her grandson with this news was so special. Grandma proceeded to explain to her grandson what a Sponsored Adoption entailed. A special adoption has now turned in to a sweet teaching moment as well.



*Shiloh and his best friend Glinda*

Win-Win for us all. All thanks in part to J.E.



## Dog Stats

(By Ed and Dolores Ransom)

Month	Volunteer	
	Hours	Adoptions
May	684	13
June	707	16
July	762.8	8*
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,153.8</b>	<b>29</b>

\*plus 4 dogs went to Sac SPCA!

## CAT Stats

(By Cynthia Pino and Anne Dasch)

Month	Volunteer	
	Hours	Adoptions
May	101	1
June	90.5	4
July	93.9	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>285.4</b>	<b>8</b>



may want to meet you and your dog at the first time of using their spot. You can search the local area for a Sniffspot that suits you, they are generally all secure, and some have more facilities than others. Some spots may have animals/dogs nearby, but the actual spot is for the hirers use only.

There is a fabulous spot in Valley Springs, two acres with a pond! And there are dozens in other areas.

All of the details, rules, how to use the app etc. can be found either in the Sniffspot app in the app store, or you can go directly to their website at [sniffspot.com](http://sniffspot.com).

It's nice to have options on where we can take our fur kids to safely play!

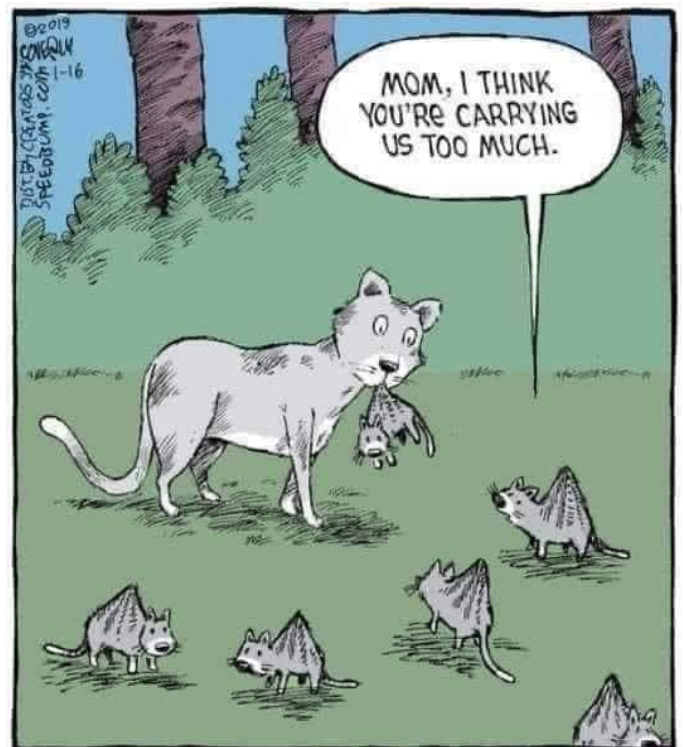


## SniffSpot Anyone?

I was just reading about Sniffspot and so wanted to share the information you all as it seems like a great solution for those that want a safe place to take their dogs to run free, without the worries of other dogs at dog parks.! Here is the article I read:

*Sniffspot is basically Airbnb for dogs (their marketing speak, not mine!). Users hire a space (field or garden) from hosts who are willing to rent out their space for dogs to play off lead. The best thing is, it is for exclusive use of the person hiring the spot. I have been using Sniffspot for about 18 months (in Woodland and here), we use it twice a week, it has been the best thing for our dog! The average cost is about \$10 ph.*

*There are rules to follow, and (like Airbnb), the transactions are based on trust. Obviously, you are using someone else's land, and they are allowing strangers onto their property, so mutual trust/respect is an integral element of the transaction. Some hosts*



## POEM OF A DOG



I'm the one who's always waiting for you.

Your car has a special sound that I have imprinted on my senses, I can recognize it in a thousand.

Your steps have a magic bell. Your voice is music to my ears. If I see your joy, it makes me happy! Your scent is the best. Your presence moves my senses.

Your waking up wakes me up. I contemplate you sleeping and for me you are my God, I am happy watching your sleep. Your look is a ray of light.

Your hands upon me, hold the lightness of peace and the sublime display of infinite love. When you leave, I feel a huge void in my heart. I keep waiting for you again and again. I am the one who will wait for you all your life today, tomorrow and forever:

I am your dog.

**HEADS UP...its Corn on the Cob season! They can be DEADLY to dogs if they swallow them,,,, even just a piece of a cob .... can cause blockages.... BE SURE to throw them away correctly so dogs do NOT get them... thanks**





## Health tips by Doc Hopper

### 6 Poisonous Mushrooms That Are Toxic to Dogs

By PetMD Editorial on May 25, 2016



#### 6 Poisonous Mushrooms for Dogs

By Caitlin Ultimo

Poisonous mushrooms that grow in the wild can be extremely difficult to identify, but they cause serious harm to your dog if you're not careful. While some dangerous mushrooms may have obvious warning signs, like stay-away red caps, others can appear rather benign and look similar to the mushrooms you may buy at the grocery store. And while store-bought mushrooms are actually safe for your dog, the ones that grow in the wild—even if they look similar—are not.

"Some wild mushrooms are liver toxic, others cause neurological issues, and even the least potentially dangerous species can cause severe signs of stomach upset," explains Tina Wismer, a board-certified veterinarian and medical director of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

"Owners must always be aware that there are poisonous plant and fungal species that exist in the wild," says Jennifer Good, DVM, and staff doctor at NYC's Animal Medical Center. "Given the difficulty

in identifying which species a dog may come across, all mushroom ingestions should be treated as emergencies by owners and veterinarians alike."

As a general rule, try your best to keep your dog away from mysterious mushrooms growing outdoors and read on for some common poisonous mushrooms that you may encounter:



#### Liver-Toxic Mushrooms

##### Poisonous liver-toxic mushrooms include:

- *Amanita phalloides* (Death Cap Mushroom)
- *Amanita ocreata* (Angel of Death)
- *Lepiota* (False Parasol)
- *Galerina*

Mushrooms that present the greatest threat for dogs are what veterinarians refer to as liver-toxic mushrooms. "The most dangerous species of mushrooms contain hepatotoxic cyclopeptides, such as amatoxins (the most toxic), phallotoxins, and virotoxins," says Good. Species that contain these toxins include *Amanita phalloides*, known as the Death Cap or Death Angel, *Amanita ocreata* also referred to as the Angel of Death, the *Lepiota* or False Parasol and *Galerina*, which are small nondescript, brown mushrooms that grow in mossy or forested areas after a heavy rain. "This class of mushroom is responsible for the vast majority of both human and pet fatalities worldwide," says Good.

These species of mushrooms are especially dangerous, because not only do they attack a major organ, but you won't see signs for several hours after ingestion. "In people, who have accidentally ingested these mushrooms, you can do a liver transplant, but we don't do those in dogs," shares Wismer. "We can support them and try to protect the liver, but typically if the symptoms persist for two to three days after exposure, it's too late."

Some of these liver-toxic amanita mushrooms are common in areas of California, but can be found in others locations across the U.S. too. If your dog is brought to the vet right after ingesting the mushroom, veterinarians may induce vomiting and use activated charcoal to bind the toxins to stop them from being absorbed.



Image: dabjola / Shutterstock  
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms

**Hallucinogenic Mushrooms include:**

- *Conocybe*
- *Gymnopilus*
- *Psilocybe*
- *Panaeolus*

Mushrooms of the *Conocybe*, *Gymnopilus*, *Psilocybe* and *Panaeolus* species contain psilocin and psilocybin as their toxic components and are typically brown in color with differing cap shapes and

patterns. Hallucinogenic mushrooms, also referred to as magic mushrooms, can cause hallucinations, temporary weakness, disorientation, howling, abnormal mental activity and/ or seizures in dogs. "Ingestion of these species by dogs results in clinical signs within 30 minutes to 4 hours," says Good.

Your vet may give your dog a mild sedative to help keep him calm until the toxins have worked their way out of his system. "It can take a couple of days for your dog to get back to normal, but hallucinogenic mushrooms are rarely fatal," says Wismer.



Image: Mikhail Kochiev / Shutterstock  
Toadstool Mushrooms

**Toadstool Mushrooms include:**

- *Amanita pantherina* (Panther Cap)
- *Amanita muscaria* (Fly Agaric)

"Ingestion of the species *Amanita pantherina* known as the Panther Cap and *Amanita muscaria* also referred to as the Fly Agaric, are more commonly poisonous to humans, but can also affect your dog, due to the presence of isoxazole toxins.

"The toxicity results in psychotropic signs involving the central nervous system, including confusion, visual distortion, a feeling of greater strength, delusions or convulsions," says Good. These

mushrooms commonly grow in wooded areas throughout North America and have a red cap, which can also appear orange or yellow in color, and have white spots on the stem.

“Clinical signs can be seen within 30 minutes to 12 hours following ingestion, and include excessive sedation, trouble walking (ataxia), disorientation, pinpoint pupils (miosis), stiffness, weakness, seizures, tremors, respiratory depression and even coma or death,” says Good. That being said, the prognosis for dogs that consumes these mushrooms is fair to good with early, aggressive treatment.



Image: hipproductions / Shutterstock  
Mushrooms Containing Muscarinic Agents

### **Mushrooms that include muscarinic agents include:**

- *Inocybe*
- *Clitocybe*

Mushrooms of the *Inocybe* species or *Clitocybe* species contain muscarinic agents, these toxins produce dysfunction at certain nerve endings. Commonly found across Western North America, these mushrooms can appear white or light brown in color and have white spores and white or pale-colored gills.

“With early detection and treatment, your dog will have a fair to good prognosis,” says Good. Clinical signs can be seen within two hours of ingestion, or even sooner in some cases. Some signs to look out for include: Hypersalivation, diarrhea, excessive tear production, urinary incontinence, vomiting

and abdominal pain, while more severe signs may include trouble breathing, wheezing or coughing. Seek help from your vet right away, as, “Your veterinarian may be able to provide an antidote, called atropine, to help reverse those symptoms,” says Wismer.



Image: Mildenmi / Shutterstock  
False Morel Mushrooms

### **False morel mushrooms include:**

- *Gyromitra esculenta* (Beefsteak)
- *Gyromitra caroliniana*
- Mushrooms in the *Verpa* genre
- Mushrooms in the *Helvella* genre



Image: unverdorben jr / Shutterstock  
Mushrooms That Cause Gastrointestinal Distress

### **These mushrooms include:**

- *Boletus*
- *Chlorophyllum*
- *Entolomo*

Found throughout the US, “The least toxic species of the poisonous mushrooms include the *Boletus*, *Chlorophyllum* and *Entoloma* species,” says Dr. Good. These fast-acting mushrooms vary in shape, color and size and are gastrointestinal irritants that rarely result in life-threatening signs. You’ll see clinical signs, including vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite typically within an hour or less after ingestion. These symptoms often resolve themselves without treatment. Still, you will want to consult your vet, “who may recommend your dog receive fluids and anti-vomiting medication to help prevent possible dehydration,” says Wismer.

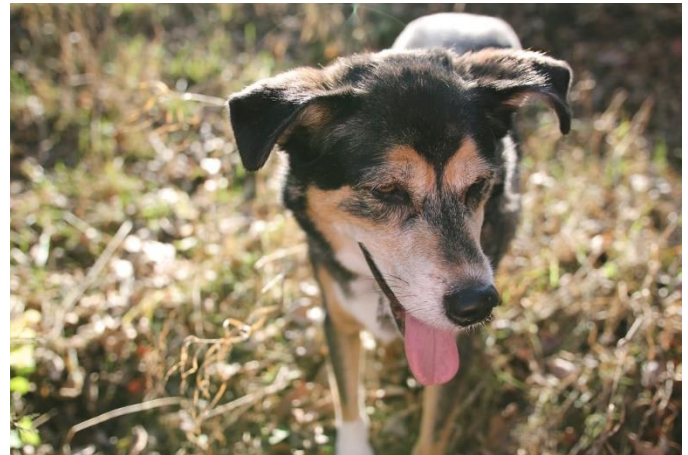


Image: Christin Lola / Shutterstock  
What to Do if Your Dog Eats a Wild Mushroom

“If you witness or even suspect that your dog has eaten all or part of a mushroom, try to get a sample of the fungus to bring with you to the veterinary hospital,” Good explains. This will help with quick identification and appropriate action. “Make sure to place mushroom samples in a paper or wax-paper bag, and refrigerate until it can be given to you vet,” says Good. “Plastic bags should be avoided, as they can cause the sample to change color, deteriorate or liquefy, making identification difficult.”



Image: Kheylyk Vadim / Shutterstock  
Preventing Accidental Mushroom Consumption for Dogs

Before visiting a new outdoor area with your pet, take some time to check the out the North American Mycological Association, that lists poisonous mushrooms that are popular in different regions across the U.S. And, keep your dog on a leash while exploring new trails, off-leash walks make discouraging your pet from scavenging and accidentally eating a poisonous mushroom more difficult. “Mushrooms will grow where there is dead organic matter in the soil, say under a rotting piece of wood or in a compost pile and will typically pop up after a rain,” says Wismer, “So check your yard after it rains and pick any mushrooms growing in your yard before letting your dog outside.”



First ever photograph of a newly hatched telecom technician (with the egg shell still on top of its head)!



checks, but they may not be over the legal limits with pets themselves and cannot have any animal control issues on record with our office. We will provide instruction on how to care for foster animals, so previous foster experience although a plus, is not required. “

You can find more information as well as the dog or cat application, dog and cat program manuals, dog and cat agreement forms all on the county website at <https://animal.calaverasgov.us/How-to-Help/Foster>

## FOSTER CARE PROGRAM IS HERE!!

Help save lives – Become a Foster Caregiver!

### About Fostering

Foster care providers are critical to the effort to save lives by providing temporary care outside of the shelter. Foster caregivers provide care for their foster pets until they reach weaning age, recover from a medical procedure, for behavior modification, need a break from the stresses of shelter life, or until adopted.

When you foster, we provide the necessary supplies and medical care. To make the fostering experience a positive one for you and the animal, we match animals in need to the foster provider’s home environment, personal abilities, and comfort level in working with various behaviors or medical conditions.

If you or an acquaintance falls in love with your foster pet, you can adopt them!  
It’s Simple to Become a Foster Caregiver!

Mike Vasquez says “the only requirement is that the foster parent must treat animals with respect and have a welcoming home for foster animals to reside at. Applicants don’t go through any background



“I can't believe that they try to hide my medication in my food. I'm a drug sniffing dog!”

Another Great Rabies Clinic

June 8<sup>th</sup> put another drive-through clinic on the books. Dr. Julie Clements stepped in as our vet and she was great. We’re just sorry she’s retiring!

It was a smaller clinic than usual but still did 123 rabies vaccinations and 60 microchips.



Here are some of our most excellent clients:



Dr. Clements in action



We don't always get their names but these two are Shyloe (GSD) and Dory (Husky)

**"I put a snack in your purse  
Margaret. You'll thank me later!"**





## A Fabulous Adoption Story from the CCAS Facebook page

👂 We have great news for you from the CCAS Happy Adoption Stories Department: Missy has been adopted!! 🐶🐱💕

You may remember our recent post about Missy getting to spend time in foster care with our wonderful volunteer Carl. Carl and his girlfriend enjoyed hosting Missy, and Missy settled right in to their sweet home, 🏠 including doing very well with their other dogs. ❤️🐾

Carl would have loved to adopt Missy, ❤️ but he travels frequently for work and was concerned that adopting another dog would be a burden on his girlfriend. 😞 Though he didn't believe he could bring Missy home permanently; he knew he could at least ease Missy's kennel stress 🐾🐾 while she waited to be adopted by periodically fostering her when he was not traveling. 😊

Thus, after coming home from a work trip, Carl recently returned to the shelter to pick Missy back up for some more temporary foster time. Little did he know, his girlfriend (we've decided she's

awesome 😊) had arranged a very special secret surprise for him for his birthday. 🎁💕

Cue the happy music! 🎵 He got his wish and got to adopt Missy with his girlfriend's full support! 🎉🎁🍰

How cool is that? 😊 Just another testament to the quality of our Calaveras County Animal Shelter volunteers who, like Carl, are so dedicated and full of love for the animals. 🙏 We thank Carl (and his awesome girlfriend! 💕) for his service and for the gift of a new life for Missy.

👉👉👉 Would you like to be part of improving the lives of Calaveras animals? 🐶🐱 We need you! Find more information about volunteering here: <https://humanresources.calaverasgov.us/Volunteer/Animal-Services-Volunteer-Program-ASVP>

For additional information contact: Calaveras County Animal Services (209) 754-6509 or [animal@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:animal@co.calaveras.ca.us)



Missy and Carl



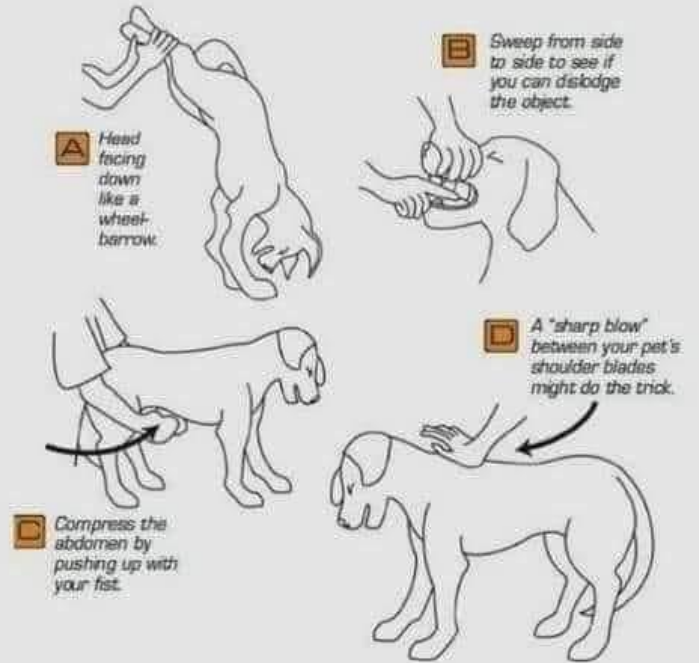
## Warning: Foxtail Season

Foxtails are very dangerous to dogs. Your dog can step on the seeds or brush by the plant without you realizing it. The seeds can enter your dog's body through their skin. Embedded foxtails don't break down and can cause discharge, abscesses, swelling, pain, and even death.

This is how I managed to change the bedsheets in under 15 min.



## Heimlich Maneuver for Dogs



When you're comfy, but just a little bit hot



And don't forget I'm still collecting used tennis shoes for a fundraiser – details in the May issue. Thank you!!

**FREE  
FREE**  
DRIVE THRU CLINIC  
FOR DOGS AND CATS

**No Breeders  
Please!**



# RABIES VACCINE

**Open to Calaveras County Residents Only**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024**

**9am - 11:30am**

**Spence Ranch Feed & Supply**

**1291 CA-49, Angels Camp**

**With attending veterinarian Dr. Sasha, DVM**

**ALL DOGS MUST  
BE ON LEASH**

**ALL CATS MUST BE IN  
SECURE CARRIERS**

**MORE UPCOMING 2024 CLINICS**

**September 14th • October 12th**



**Brought to you by Friends of Calaveras Animal Services**

A 501c3 non-profit supported by community donations 🐾

[www.focasweb.com](http://www.focasweb.com)

**Questions? (209) 754-6509**

**Calaveras County Animal Services**

