

**Wildrose Training Newsletter**  
**Special Edition**  
**Mike Stewart**  
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### **The Destroying Angel** **Lessons Learned**

We recently received a call from one of our clients telling us that her 10-week old puppy was very sick. The description of the pup's illness made us think immediately of parvo but the veterinarian had already ruled that out. I suggested that she have her vet check for Coccidia and/or Girardia. Before she could make the call to her veterinarian, she received a call saying her puppy had died. The puppy became ill on Monday and died on Wednesday. We asked her to go back through the puppy's weekend schedule and think where the puppy had been that might be different. The puppy took a trip to the couple's Georgia farm on Sunday. The immediate question was, "What did the puppy get into?" The pup's condition and resulting death had stumped two vets but the alarming answer was finally revealed with an autopsy. Finally, the family recalled that the puppy had eaten a small bite of a mushroom, had thrown up, and seemed fine afterwards. The autopsy showed that the puppy died from the poisoning of a mushroom.

The name of this killer the puppy ate is called "Destroying Angel." They thrive on roots of oak trees—any white mushroom located near an oak tree is suspect to be a variety of the very highly toxic Amanita variety of mushrooms. This 3 x 3 mushroom kills adults! Life expectancy for an adult is 3-4 days after consuming the mushroom. It is shorter in pets or children because of their small size. If you see your dog eat a mushroom, induce vomiting immediately. Use a tablespoon of hydrogen peroxide to get the poison out of your dog's system and immediately go to your vet.

Characteristics of the mushroom:

- All white—white top, white stem
- White "gills" underneath, has a "crumbly" texture—fragile
- Has a flat, round cap that is 2-3 inches wide
- 2-4 inches tall immature and are still deadly
- Has a "ball" appearance to the cap
- Stem tapers to a fat base
- Will be found near oak trees or roots of an oak tree
- Cannot be eradicated with commercial fungicides

Check out the websites below for more pictures and more information:

[www.shroomery.org/images/18131/24247](http://www.shroomery.org/images/18131/24247)

<http://americanmushroom.com/deathcap.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/category:poisonous\\_mushrooms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/category:poisonous_mushrooms)

We hope this information prevents a future tragic death. Check your property!!