

# Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic is a brand new facility owned by "Dr. Laurie" Langford who has been caring for animals in Orinda for 15 years.



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## Poisonous Mushrooms

By Mona Miller, DVM



will be performed to monitor kidney and liver organs, as well as blood sugar and electrolytes.

If you suspect your dog has eaten wild mushrooms, bring samples of these fungi to your veterinarian when you bring your dog in. Identification of the specific type of mushroom ingested can be very helpful in developing a treatment plan.

Useful websites for mushroom identification and photos can be found at <http://bayareamushrooms.org/poisonings> and <http://namyco.org/toxicology> (North American Mycological Association).

In light of the recent warning issued by the California Department of Public Health to discourage collection and consumption of wild mushrooms, I thought I would discuss the danger of wild mushrooms to pets, especially dogs. Some dogs are attracted to mushrooms with a fishy odor, while other dogs are non-discriminating and will eat anything of interest in the backyard or on the trail. Mushrooms can be classified according to their type of toxin; of these eight categories, six are important as potential pet toxicities. Some cause liver failure, some cause gastrointestinal irritation, and others cause neurologic disease. As an aside, most edible, store-bought mushrooms are non-toxic to dogs, although a change from regular diet may contribute to indigestion and stomach upset.

The most common poisonous mushrooms in the Bay Area are *Amanita* and *Galerina* species. These are found almost year-round, but especially from fall through spring. *Amanita* species are the most common mushrooms involved in both dog and human fatal poisonings, with *Amanita phalloides* (commonly called the Death Cap Mushroom) at the top of the list. The toxins in

*Amanita* sp. are quickly absorbed from the intestines, and then cause both liver and kidney disease. There can be up to 12 hours between ingestion of the mushroom and illness. Initial symptoms are related to the gastrointestinal tract and include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Further symptoms in the first 24-36 hours are fever, rapid heart rate, changes in serum electrolytes and glucose. Then liver and kidney systems become affected and will start to fail. Without treatment, death can occur in three to seven days.

When early and aggressive treatment is instituted, the overall prognosis is good. If a dog has just ingested mushrooms and not yet shown signs, he may be made to vomit. Additionally, a binding substance called activated charcoal will be introduced into his stomach to capture any toxin not yet absorbed into the bloodstream. This can be repeated several times over the next 48 hours in order to continue to bind active toxin. Further supportive care includes hospitalization, intravenous fluids, gastrointestinal medications for nausea and vomiting. Anti-oxidant medication can be given to further reduce damage to liver and kidney cells. Blood tests



Death cap Photo Michael Wood  
[www.mykoweb.com](http://www.mykoweb.com)



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her young son, two cats and Luka a new puppy. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to [MonaSDVM@aol.com](mailto:MonaSDVM@aol.com).

## Special Screening of Casablanca

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**January 23**  
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**Orinda Theatre**

Q & A with  
 Mr. Rosario  
 Tronnolone



Check [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) for all movie listings

## Lamorindans Love Christmas Collections

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The bunk beds in the boys' room are covered with material from her own sons' beds. It has a pool table, fishing gear and motorcycle posters.

"Mason's room" doubles as the game room, and is dedicated to her oldest son, a Campolindo High School senior. The guitar on the couch is ready to be played, and the walls are covered with pictures of Windatt's three boys in their football gear. The hall has a grand piano and Christmas tree, and the attic holds an art studio. "I've been obsessed about it [the dollhouse]," Windatt admits. She'll store it in their dining room on a revolving base after the holidays.

Orindan Wendy Jacobs' Christmas sweaters are decorated with trees, snowmen, penguins, dogs, nutcrackers and reindeer. She didn't start collecting them for herself; she did it as a favor for her father, who enlisted her help to buy sweaters as presents for her mother. That shopping trip piqued Jacobs' interest, and she learned to prowl boutiques for fresh samples of seasonal stitchery.

Jacobs rotates the sweaters she wears, especially those which belonged to her mother. A soft blue zippered sweater embroidered with snowmen may be her favorite. Her pink snowman sweater is made entirely of crocheted circles. A Christmas dog sweater features Santa-hatted dogs and beribboned bones. Jacobs' nutcracker sweater has been worn to the Nutcracker ballet. It was also worn to church, where it quietly occupied her son throughout the service when he was little.

A caroling reindeer sweater used to light up, until Jacobs accidentally washed the battery pack. That one she bought at a discount. "I paid \$4.95 for that - the price of a Starbucks [coffee]," Jacobs says.

Her mother's sweaters weren't usually on sale when they were purchased in December. Now, the entire sweater collection hangs in Jacobs' closet, ready for the next holiday event.

What wonderful conversation starters!



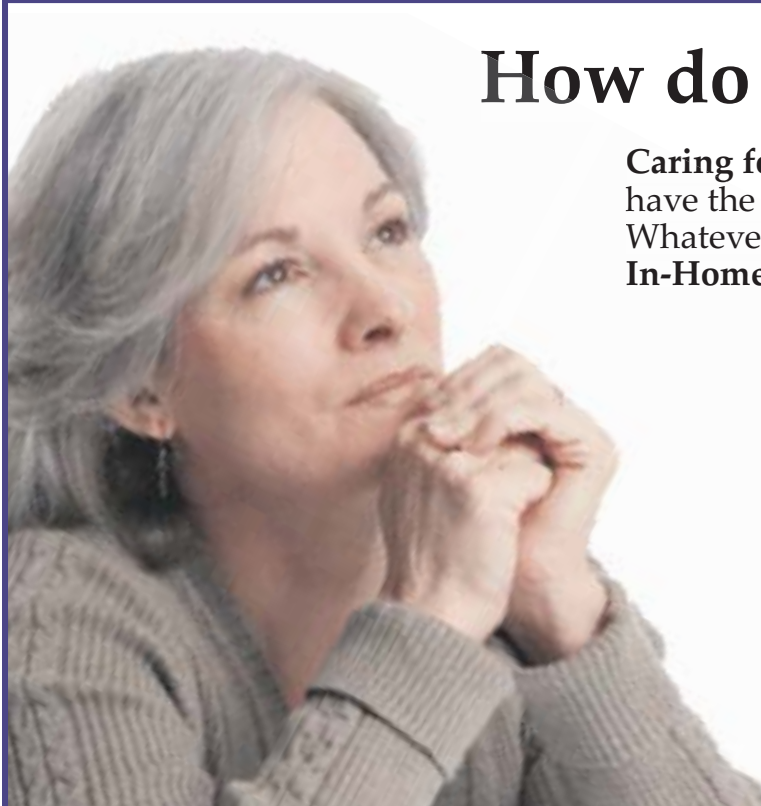
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