

Ducks Unlimited

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Dogs and Harmful Algal Blooms

Free brochure provides important information about dangerous waterborne toxins

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are overgrowths of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that cause water-quality problems in lakes and ponds, including the occasional production of potent toxins. These toxins can sicken people, household pets, waterfowl, and livestock. Because HABs are increasing in many areas, the number of fatal dog poisonings from cyanobacterial toxins is on the rise.

To help keep our canine companions safe around local waterways, the New York Sea Grant (NYSG) network has produced a brochure that provides dog owners with a checklist of HABs poisoning symptoms and steps that can be taken if a dog is exposed to these harmful toxins. Author Dave MacNeill, an NYSG fisheries specialist from SUNY Oswego, enlisted the aid of Dr. Karyn Bischoff, a toxicologist at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Scott Kishbaugh of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Dr. Lesley V. D'Anglada of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; John Wickham of the NOAA National Ocean Service; and colleagues in the Sea Grant network. For more information, visit nyseagrant.org/habs.

DOGS AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABs)



Dogs like Robert love to frolic in water, but may be at health risk from algal toxins. Sadly, the number of dog poisonings from these toxins is on the rise. Photo by Nevee Appleby

What are harmful algal blooms?

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are overgrowths of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that cause water quality problems in lakes and ponds, including the occasional production of potent toxins. These toxins can poison people, household pets, waterfowl and livestock. Because HABs are increasing in many areas, the number of dog poisonings from cyanobacterial toxins is also on the rise. To keep your canine companions safe around local waterways, please add HABs to the safety checklist, especially in summer when you bring your dog to the beach or in the fall when waterfowl hunting with your favorite retriever.

The prolific growth of blue-green algae can produce harmful toxins, which in some cases can be fatal to dogs.

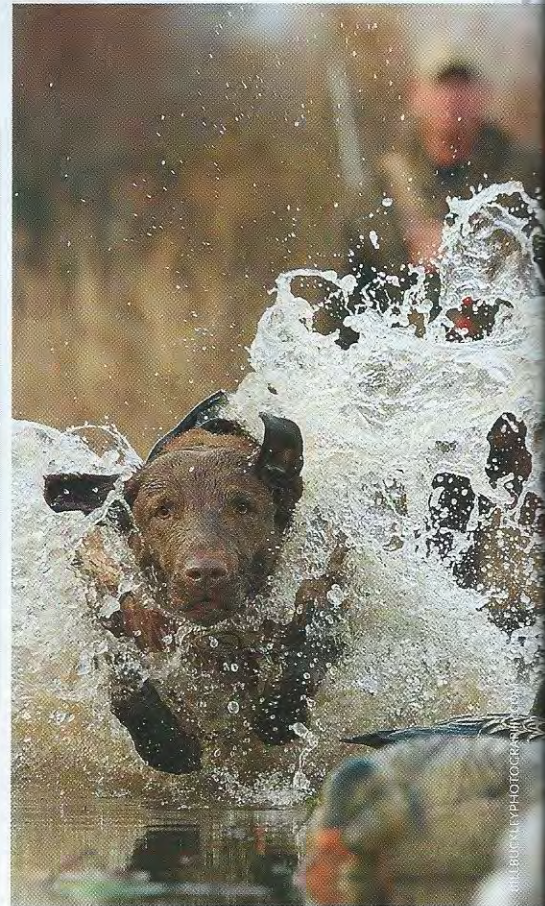


PHOTO CONTEST

Send Us Your Best Photos

Here's your chance to have an image published in *Ducks Unlimited*

Have you taken a great photo of a favorite hunting partner, your retriever in action, or waterfowl in their natural habitat? From November 1, 2014, to January 31, 2015, we will be accepting entries for the 2015 DU Magazine Photo Contest at ducks.org/photocontest. As in past years, the DU magazine staff will judge entries in **three categories: waterfowl, waterfowl hunting, and retrievers**. The winner and runner-up in each category, as well as an overall winner and runner-up, will have their photos published in the May/June 2015 issue of *Ducks Unlimited*.

RULES AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

This contest is open only to Ducks Unlimited members who are legal residents of the United States and at least 18 years old on the date of entry. You'll need to provide your member ID number when submitting your photo as well as contact information, including your name, address, date of birth, and phone number. Employees of Ducks Unlimited and their families are not eligible to enter.

Anyone who has ever been compensated for a photograph previously published in *Ducks Unlimited* is not eligible to enter.

- Submissions must be digital. No slides or prints will be accepted. Digital submissions must be at least 3,500 pixels wide by 2,800 pixels high (300 dpi). Images that do not meet this standard will not be judged.
- Limit of three entries per person. Entries will not be returned.



- Ducks Unlimited members who wish to enter must agree to the contest rules posted at ducks.org/photocontest. Entrants must certify that all submissions are their original photographs and, by entering, agree that their photographs may be published in *Ducks Unlimited* magazine and on the DU website.