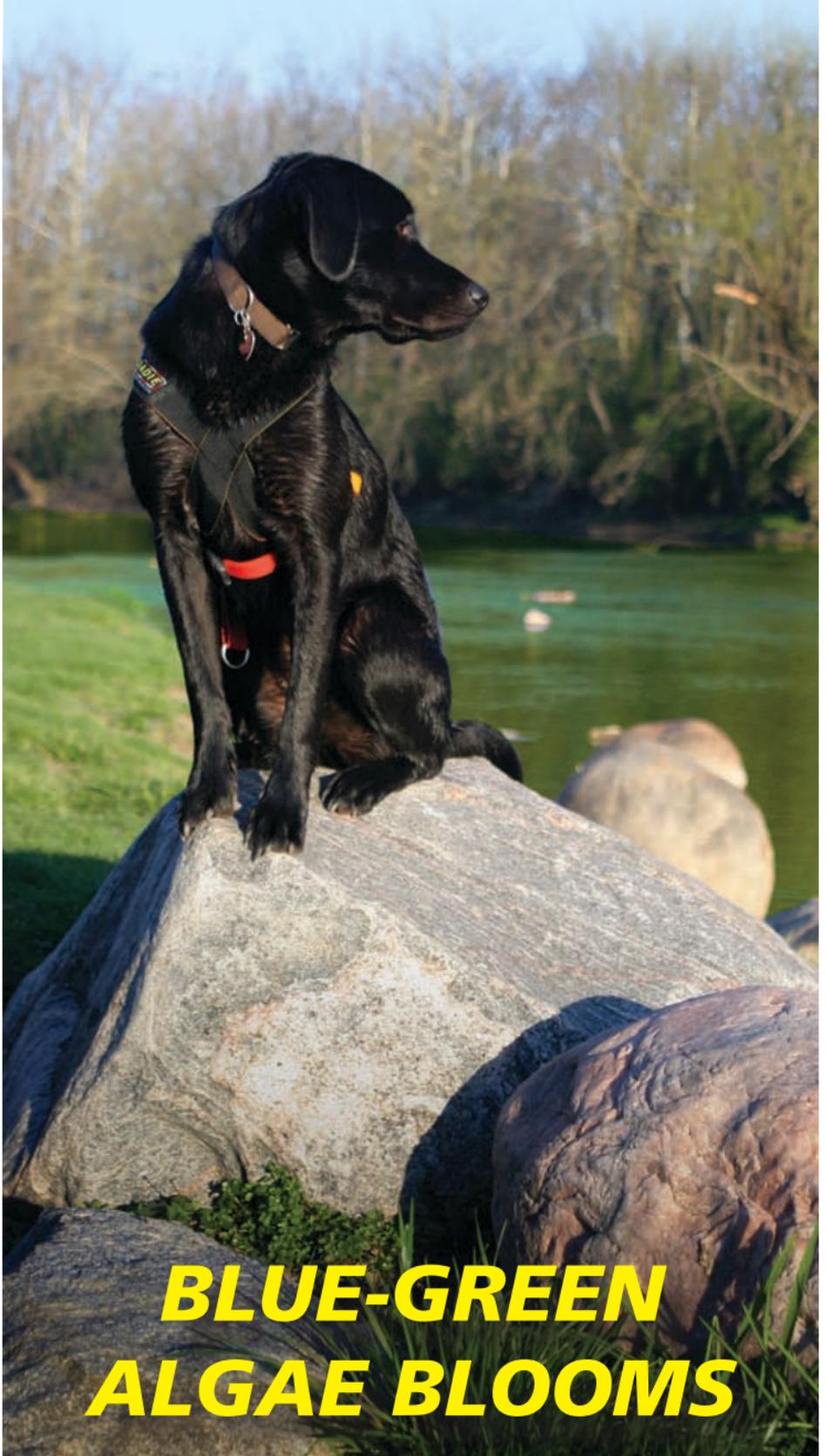


Animal Safety ALERT



**BLUE-GREEN
ALGAE BLOOMS**

Blue-green algae blooms

Cyanobacteria, sometimes called blue-green algae, are microscopic organisms found naturally in all types of water.

Blue-green algae can grow quickly, or bloom, in freshwater depending on the temperature and the amount of sunlight and nutrients available.

Algae blooms are most commonly found in the summer and fall when water is warm and stagnant. However, they can occur anytime during the year.

When a bloom occurs, scum might float on the water's surface. Blooms can come in different colors, such as green, bluish green, bright green brown or reddish green. As the bloom dies off, it might smell bad.



What is a toxic bloom?

Sometimes, blue-green algae produce toxins.

The toxins can be present in the algae or in the water. Swallowing water with algae that are producing toxins can cause serious illness.

You cannot tell if a bloom is toxic just by looking at it.



WHEN IN DOUBT, IT'S BEST TO **KEEP ANIMALS OUT!**



Health and safety tips for pets and livestock

- Do not let your pets or livestock graze near, drink or swim in water where you see blue-green algae blooms, foam or scum on the surface.
- If your animal gets in blue-green algae-contaminated water, wash the animal off with clean water as soon as possible. Do not let the animal lick algae off of its fur.
- Contact a veterinarian if your animal shows symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning. Symptoms include loss of energy, loss of appetite, vomiting, stumbling and falling, foaming at the mouth, diarrhea, convulsions, excessive drooling, tremors and seizures, or any other unexplained sickness that occurs within a day or so after being in contact with water.





You can help protect your pets and livestock from blue-green algae blooms by taking the following actions:

- Know what a bloom looks like and avoid contact with it.
- Keep pets and livestock away from lakes, ponds, or ditches if you see signs of blue-green algae.
- Visit healthoregon.org/hab to learn more about blue-green algae.

Call your veterinarian if your pet or livestock are sick.

Call your state or local health department to report pets or livestock made sick by blue-green algae.

To report a blue-green algae bloom or a related health event:

Call the Oregon Public Health Division's Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) program at 971-673-0440; also toll-free at 1-877-290-6767.

Call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health Harmful Algal Blooms program (HABISS) at 1-866-556-0544.



This document can be provided upon request in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities. Other formats may include (but are not limited to) large print, Braille, audio recordings, Web-based communications and other electronic formats. E-mail Hab.health@state.or.us, or call 971-673-0440 to arrange for the alternative format that will work best for you.