



UNLEASHED

Volume 28 Issue 6, A publication of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club July/August 2017

Meeting Date: September 6
Time: 6:30p.m.
Location: Home of Kate Volkava

2017 Meeting Dates

September 6
October 4
October Specialty
November 1
December Christmas Party TBA

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*Check out Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club
on Facebook*

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/575516432535825/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/575516432535825/)

UPDATES

There will no COLRC meetings for July and August.

We will reconvene September 6 at the NEW home of Kate Volkava. More info to follow. Have a great summer!

Are you aware of the new strain of canine flu spreading across the country? Local vets say it's headed our way. No cases have been reported in Ohio, but it is affecting dogs in Kentucky. A vaccine is now available. Check with your veterinarian for further advice. This newsletter contains informational pieces on canine flu and blue green algae bacteria that could impact dog owners everywhere. Be educated and aware.

Remember the club's show raffle when browsing flea markets and craft fairs this summer!

Special request: Lori Bentine is always searching for interesting containers!

Summer Killer Alert: Please Don't Let Your Pets Breathe, Touch, Eat or Drink Here

Story at-a-glance

- A summertime hazard many pet parents aren't aware of is toxic blue-green algae, which are found in freshwater lakes, streams and ponds
- Blue-green algae contain deadly cyanobacteria that can cause severe illness and death, most commonly in dogs who swim in or drink from contaminated water sources
- Exposure to blue-green algae is a medical emergency and immediate veterinary care is required. Since blue-green algae toxicity is often fatal even with aggressive treatment, play it safe by keeping your pet away from any body of water that is greenish in color
- Not all blue-green algae are toxic; harmful blooms usually smell bad and resemble pea soup, green paint or floating mats of scum

By Dr. Becker

There's a warm weather menace lurking in the environment many dog parents have never even heard of, and while I hate to throw a monkey wrench into anyone's summertime fun, I feel it's my duty to raise awareness about the dangers of blue-green algae.

Every summer there are reports of pet deaths after exposure to these toxic algae. Between 2007 and 2011, 13 states (Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, Wisconsin, California, Kansas, Montana and Texas) reported 67 suspected or confirmed cases of dogs being poisoned through exposure to harmful algae blooms. The dogs came in contact with the algae in a variety of ways:

- ◆ 58 were in fresh water, one was in marine water and nine exposure sources were unknown
- ◆ Nine dogs were made sick by inhaling the blooms, six ingested the blooms, 36 were exposed through the skin with accompanying ingestion and 16 had unknown contact
- ◆ 29 dogs had gastrointestinal symptoms (vomiting and diarrhea)
- ◆ Other symptoms included lethargy (12 cases) and neurologic signs, including stumbling or change in behavior (six cases)

While the most common victims of blue-green algae are dogs, other animals are also at risk, including cats, birds, horses, livestock and wildlife that drink from contaminated bodies of water, or groom themselves after a swim. In humans, exposure to harmful algae can cause a skin rash, hives, runny nose, irritated eyes and throat irritation. If water containing the toxic blooms is swallowed it can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, throat irritation and muscle pain.

Blue-Green Algae Toxicity in Animals Not all blue-green algae are toxic, but there's no way to know whether a plant is poisonous without testing. According to the Food Poisoning Bulletin:

"There is no way to tell if a blue-green algal bloom is toxic by looking at it. The harmful blooms look like pea soup, green paint, or floating mats of scum. They sometimes have a bad smell. But these blooms aren't always large and dense and can be present in a lake with little visible algae.

Before you, your children, or your pets go into the water, look at the lake closely to see if there is algae on the water or on the shore." ²

Experts advise that all blooms floating on natural bodies of water should be considered potentially toxic. Even minor exposure, such as a dog drinking a few mouthfuls of contaminated water, can be lethal. Symptoms of blue-green algae toxicity include

Vomiting	Coma
Diarrhea	Shock
Blood in the stool or black tarry stool	Excessive drooling or tearing
Pale mucous membranes	Muscle tremors
Jaundice	Muscle rigidity
Seizures	Bluish discoloration of skin and mucous membranes
Disorientation	Difficulty breathing

Symptoms depend on the toxin involved. Toxins that attack the liver cause elevated liver enzymes, low blood sugar, low protein and occasionally, abnormal clotting activity. These toxins can result in liver damage or failure and immediate aggressive treatment is necessary to save the animal.

Exposure to another type of toxin found in blue-green algae, anatoxins, results in nervous system symptoms and can bring death in minutes to hours due to respiratory paralysis.

Exposure to Blue-Green Algae Is a Medical Emergency

It's important to understand that no antidote currently exists for the toxins produced by blue-green algae. If you suspect your pet has been exposed, rinse him with fresh water,

administer highpotency homeopathic Nux Vomica if possible and seek immediate emergency veterinary care.

Your veterinarian or emergency animal hospital staff may induce vomiting if your dog isn't yet showing signs of poisoning. Symptomatic patients may need to be hospitalized to receive lifesaving treatments such as intravenous (IV) fluids, medications to control seizures or vomiting, oxygen therapy and blood transfusions.

Unfortunately, death may occur within hours of exposure, even with aggressive treatment, which is why preventing exposure is so important. If you see a body of water that is a greenish color, play it safe and steer clear.

Reprinted from Mercola, J. "Summer Killer Alert: Please Don't Let Your Pets Breathe, Touch, Eat or Drink Here" from http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/06/14/toxic-blue-green-algae.aspx?utm_source=petsnl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=art1&utm_campaign=20170614Z1&et_cid=DM147430&et rid=2042989357

This article was brought to you by Dr. Mercola, a New York Times bestselling author. For more helpful articles, please visit Mercola.com today and receive your FREE Take Control of Your Health E-book!

Down 'n Back

Captain Nick's Compass Rose
Cleveland All-Breed Training Club

6/2/17

Q in JWW and STD

Owner: Christine Nickerson

Captain Shiver Me Timbers
Cleveland All-Breed Training Club

6/2/17

Q in JWW and STD

Owner: Christine Nickerson

Litter Listings

**CH Epoch's Jolly Prankster x
Shannon's Bit O' Honey**

Yellow Puppies

Born 5/19/17

Contact: Jennifer Stotts
shannonlabradors@yahoo.com or
740-828-2657

Canine Influenza: Pet Owners' Guide

See Also:

[Canine Influenza FAQ](#)

[Canine Influenza Reference Guide for Veterinarians](#)

Canine influenza (CI, or dog flu) is caused by the canine influenza virus (CIV), an influenza A virus. It is highly contagious and easily spread from infected dogs to other dogs by direct contact, nasal secretions (through barking, coughing or sneezing), contaminated objects (kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes), and by people moving between infected and uninfected dogs. Dogs of any breed, age, sex or health status are at risk of infection when exposed to the virus.

Currently, two strains of CIV have been identified in the U.S. The H3N8 strain of canine influenza was first identified in 2004 in Florida. Since then, it has been found in several other states. In 2015, the H3N2 virus strain was identified as the cause of an outbreak of canine influenza in Chicago. The virus was known to exist in Asia, but the 2015 outbreak was the first report of the H3N2 virus affecting dogs outside of Asia.

Canine influenza can occur year round. So far, there is no evidence that canine influenza infects people.

Canine influenza and cats

In early 2016, a group of cats in an Indiana shelter were infected with H3N2 canine influenza (passed to them by infected dogs). The findings suggested that cat-to-cat transmission was possible. Cats infected with H3N2 canine influenza show symptoms of upper respiratory illness, including a runny nose, congestion, malaise, lip smacking and excessive salivation.

Canine influenza symptoms and diagnosis

The symptoms of a CIV infection resemble those of canine infectious tracheobronchitis ("kennel cough"). Dogs infected with CIV develop a persistent cough and may develop a thick nasal discharge and fever (often 104-105oF). Other signs can include lethargy, eye discharge and reduced appetite. Canine influenza infections can cause mild to severe illness in dogs. Some infected dogs may not show any signs of illness, but can still be contagious and able to infect other dogs



Most dogs recover within 2-3 weeks. However, some dogs may develop secondary

bacterial infections which may lead to more severe illness and pneumonia. Anyone with concerns about their pet's health, or whose pet is showing signs of canine influenza, should contact their veterinarian.

Laboratory tests are available to diagnose both H3N8 and H3N2 CIV. Consult your veterinarian for more information regarding testing for CIV.

Transmission and prevention of canine influenza

Dogs infected with CIV are most contagious during the two- to four- day virus incubation period, when they shed the virus in their nasal secretions but do not show signs of illness. The virus is highly contagious and almost all dogs exposed to CIV will become infected. The majority (80%) of infected dogs develop flu-like illness. The mortality (death) rate from CIV is low (less than 10%).

To reduce the spread of CIV, isolate dogs that are sick or showing signs of a respiratory illness, and isolate dogs known to have been exposed to an infected dog.

Isolate dogs infected with H3N2 canine influenza for at least 21 days and dogs infected with H3N8 CIV for at least 7 days. Practice good hygiene and sanitation, including hand washing and thorough cleaning of shared items and kennels, to reduce the spread of CIV. Influenza viruses do not usually survive in the environment beyond 48 hours and are inactivated or killed by commonly used disinfectants.

Vaccines are available for both the H3N8 and H3N2 strains of canine influenza virus. The CIV vaccination is a "lifestyle" vaccination, recommended for dogs at risk of exposure due to their increased exposure to other dogs – such as boarding, attending social events with dogs present, and visiting dog parks. Your veterinarian can provide you with additional information about the vaccines and whether you should consider vaccinating your dog.

Additional Resources:

[Frequently Asked Questions \(for pet owners\)](#)

[Canine Influenza reference page \(for veterinarians\)](#)

[Canine Influenza \(Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University\)](#)

[H3N2 Frequently Asked Questions \(Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine\)](#)

[Doginfluenza.com \(Merck Animal Health\)](#)

Reprinted from the American Veterinary Foundation; <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/CanineInfluenza.aspx>

General COLRC Information



The **UNLEASHED!** is a publication by and for the members of the **Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club** and others interested in the betterment of the sport and advancement of cooperative communication within the Labrador community and the dog fancy.

The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed by the editor to be of interest to our readers but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of the editor or COLRC members. Reader input is actively solicited.

Please address or email all articles, announcements, comments and suggestions to newsletter@colrc.com. Unleashed is published ten to twelve times per year. Closing for each issue is the 20th day of the month prior to publication.

Dues are \$25 annually for a single membership and \$40 for a joint membership. Business cards will be placed on the COLRC website for the year at a cost of \$50 for members and non-members.

Club members who wish to utilize the Litter Listing Column of the newsletter and website will be required to pay \$50 per litter listing unless they have worked at two of our three club events during the course of the year.

Meetings General meetings shall take place the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

OFFICERS

President.....	Sally Bell	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Treasurer.....	Chris Bell	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Secretary.....	Sue Frazier	(Term expires Dec 2017)

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Puppy Match.....	Linda Bednarski
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Eye Clinic.....	Jennifer Stotts

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