

# DOG HEALTH ALERT

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources would like to remind dog owners to properly dispose of boat scrapings. Consumption of Dark False Mussels has been associated with canine illness events and fatalities around the Magothy, Severn and Patapsco Rivers, but other areas may be at risk.



Native to the Bay, Dark False Mussels and Barnacles are all part of fouling community found on dock ropes, floats, boat hulls, oyster cages and piers. Their range expands during wet years when bay salinities are lower.

**Dog owners are asked to keep pets away from Dark False Mussels and also to take these preventative measures to ensure the safety of your pet.**

**Keep Pets Away from Boats After Being Pulled Out of Water**

**Clean Boats Away from Animals**

**Dispose of All Boat Scrapings Properly**

**Keep Dogs On Leash to Avoid Exposure**

If you suspect your dog is sick from having eaten dark false mussels, take them to a veterinarian immediately.