



June 2021

## Dog Owners Beware

***Toxic blue-green algae found in lakes and ponds can be deadly to animals.***

### ***Overview***

Toxic blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, are microscopic organisms that live naturally in lakes and ponds. With a combination of warm weather, sun light and nutrients, still waters can produce large amounts of algae that can cover and discolor the water. Exposure to this type of algae can cause health issues in humans and animals when touched or ingested.

### ***Dangers Associated***

The main danger linked with blue green algae is it can be toxic or deadly to animals when consumed in high concentrations. Dogs are more susceptible due to their tendency play in and ingest water containing these algae. Animals could die within hours of exposure to blue-green algae bloom. There is also no remedy for blue-green algae poison, so prevention is the most effective measure. The poison produced can cause rashes, cramps, nausea diarrhea and liver problems in humans.

### ***Signs that your dog may have Blue-Green Algae Poisoning***

*Symptoms may show up between 20 minutes to 5 days after exposure.*

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Drooling
- Disoriented or weakness
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of consciousness

### ***How to detect and avoid***

- The water has a blue-green, yellow, white or brown paint like appearance.
- Looks like 'Pea Soup.'
- The water smells or tastes nauseating
- Dogs are attracted to the smell and taste, so keep them leashed around detected waters.

### ***If you come you or your pet comes in contact***

- Rinse off your pet with clean water immediately

- Do not let your pet lick its fur or paws.
- Call your veterinarian (If caught early enough, the vet can flush out most of the toxins).
- Wear gloves to protect yourself and then wash yourself with soap and water.



<https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/blue-green-algae/>

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae/faq.htm>

[https://www.usgs.gov/centers/kswsc/science/cyanobacterial-blue-green-algal-blooms-tastes-odors-and-toxins-0?qt-science\\_center\\_objects=0#qt-science\\_center\\_objects](https://www.usgs.gov/centers/kswsc/science/cyanobacterial-blue-green-algal-blooms-tastes-odors-and-toxins-0?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects)

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/blue-green-algae-symptoms-tips/>