

Cyanobacteria Blooms: Hazard for Dogs

Also known as toxic algae, cyanobacteria harmful algae blooms can cause serious illness or death in pets and livestock that ingest water or mats containing high concentrations of cyanotoxins. Dogs can become extremely ill, and even die, within minutes to hours of exposure to cyanotoxins from drinking water, licking their wet fur or eating floating mats or dried crust along the shore.

What to Watch For

A toxic algae bloom can look foamy, scummy, thick like paint, and pea-green or blue-green in color. It can look like a thick green or brownish-red mat, or bright green clumps suspended in the water. If you find thick, brightly colored foam, scum or mats in a lake, pond, river or stream—especially in shallow, marshy areas where cyanobacteria blooms can form—don't let your pet drink or swim in the water or eat mats found in the water or on the shore.

Symptoms in Dogs

Exposure to a harmful algae bloom can result in:

- ▶ Weakness or collapse
- ▶ Nausea and vomiting
- ▶ Excessive drooling
- ▶ Abdominal pain
- ▶ Diarrhea
- ▶ Difficulty breathing
- ▶ Shaking or trembling
- ▶ Tremors, rigidity or paralysis

Most Oregon waterways are **not** monitored for cyanobacteria. **When in doubt, stay out!**

If Your Dog Does Go in the Water

- ▶ Don't let your dog lick its fur.
- ▶ Wash your dog with clean water as soon as possible.
- ▶ If your dog shows the symptoms noted above after exposure to a possible cyanobacteria bloom, seek immediate veterinary care. Acute, life-threatening symptoms from these toxins often develop rapidly and death can occur within minutes to hours.



Toxic Algae Advisories

Check our Web site or Oregon Health Authority's site for the latest cyanobacteria advisories before heading out for the lake or river. And remember: **when in doubt, stay out!**



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