

Hiking and Harmful Algae Blooms: What to know when hiking with pets

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Cyanobacteria- Danger to Pets

Spot the Algae!

-Don't let your dog drink or swim in water if:

-It's slimy or looks like foam, scum or mats on the surface of the water.

-The color is weird. Harmful algal blooms can be blue, bright green, brown or red and may look like paint floating on the water.

-It stinks. Some (but not all) harmful algae produce a nauseating smell. – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



SCIENCE
ENGINEERING
DESIGN

Cyanobacteria- Pet Exposure Routes

Because of their behavior, dogs are much more susceptible than humans to cyanobacterial poisoning. When toxins are present, dogs can be exposed to toxins by :

- Drinking the water,
- Eating washed up mats or scum of toxic cyanobacteria
(Dogs are often attracted to algal scum odors)
- Having skin contact with water.
- After leaving the water, dogs can also be poisoned by grooming their fur and paws.**

-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Cyanobacteria- Danger to Pets

Treat Exposure!

If you think your dog has gotten into a harmful algae bloom:

-Rinse him or her off immediately. Wear gloves to protect yourself and give your dog a thorough rinse in clean, fresh water.

-Watch for symptoms. Symptoms can arise anywhere from 15 minutes to several days after exposure.



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Cyanobacteria- HAB Toxin Poisoning in Pets

Liver toxins

- repeated vomiting (green liquid)
- diarrhea or tarry (bloody) stool
- loss of appetite, anorexia
- jaundice (yellowing of eye whites, gums)
- abdominal swelling may be tender to the touch
- cyanosis (bluish coloration) of skin
- dark urine or reduced/ no urine output

Nerve toxins

- stumbling, seizures, convulsions, paralysis
- excessive salivation/drooling
- disorientation, inactivity or depression
- elevated heart rate, difficulty breathing

Skin toxins

- skin rashes, hives

Cyanobacteria- Colorado Warnings

CAUTION

TOXIC ALGAE MAY BE PRESENT



Water contact can cause illness

- ▶ Keep kids out
- ▶ No pets in water
- ▶ Do not drink water
- ▶ Avoid contact with algae
- ▶ If exposed, shower immediately

Fishing permitted - rinse fish with clean water and properly dispose guts

Boating permitted - avoid algae



If you or your animals have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, irritated eyes, seizures or breathing problems, call Poison Control: **1-800-222-1222**

Cyanobacteria- Colorado Warnings

DANGER

LAKE IS CLOSED TO FULL-BODY CONTACT

Toxic algae is present!



Water contact can cause illness

- ▶ Keep kids out
- ▶ No pets in water (death may occur)
- ▶ Do not drink water
- ▶ No water recreation (swimming, skiing, paddle-boarding, wading, etc.)
- ▶ If exposed, shower immediately

Fishing permitted - rinse fish with clean water and properly dispose guts

Boating permitted - avoid algae



If you or your animals have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, irritated eyes, seizures or breathing problems, call Poison Control: **1-800-222-1222**

Resources for further information

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/toxic-algae>

North American Lake Management Society

<https://www.nalms.org/getting-to-know-cyanobacteria-the-basics-blooms-toxins-and-taxa-text/>

Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/protect-your-pooch>

Me!

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QUESTIONS?



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*THANK
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