

# Protect Your Dog From Harmful Algae

## KNOW IT, AVOID IT & REPORT IT!



**Harmful Alge Blooms** (HABs, also known as Blue-green algae) are actually a type of bacteria (Cyanobacteria) rather than algae.

A beautiful lake can become dangerous. If the right conditions are met, the bacteria can form what are called “blooms”, or massive amounts of floating material on the surface of a lake.

These blooms can look like brightly colored green paint, foamy, or scum, on the surface and along the shoreline.

The blooms can move around a lake with wind action, or currents, and can appear, and even disappear, in a matter of hours.

The onset of HABs symptoms can range from minutes to hours after exposure. A tiny amount of the toxin can kill a dog.

If you suspect exposure, seek immediate care from your veterinarian. These toxins are fast-acting, and there is no known cure. Even with proper veterinary care, most exposures are fatal. Prevention is the best way to protect your dog.

### SIGNS OF EXPOSURE

- Excessive Drooling
- Difficulty Breathing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Seizures or Twitching
- Stumbling and falling
- Foaming at the mouth
- Unexplained sickness occurring within a day or so after being in contact with water.
- Death

### How Can I Keep My Dog Safe At The Lake?

- Keep your dog on a leash near shorelines.
- Don't let dogs wade, drink the water or eat/walk in beach debris.
- If your dog goes in the water, remove him or her immediately.
- Don't let them lick their fur or paws after getting out of the water.
- Rinse and wash them thoroughly with clean water and use a towel to remove algae debris.

If your pet had signs of exposure to HABs

### HELP WARN

other dog owners about the current algae bloom by reporting it.

### NOTIFY

**Lake Poinsett Association** - email: [Directors@lakepoinsett.org](mailto:Directors@lakepoinsett.org).  
Report pet's exposure and lake location. (A *HABs advisory* may be posted.)

**SD DANR - HABs Coordinator: Josh Strobel (605-773-6710)**

SD DANR keeps data on animal exposures, lake locations of HABs, and water analysis confirmation.