

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Dog Health & Safety

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, occur naturally in Iowa's waterways. When sudden growth of blue-green algae is triggered by warm weather and excessive nutrients from fertilizers or other runoff, it can lead to a harmful algae bloom (HAB).

An HAB can produce toxins that are harmful to human and animal health. These are collectively known as cyanotoxins. Cyanotoxins can elicit a variety of symptoms in animals, which can die within hours to days of ingesting even a small amount.



Symptoms of Cyanotoxin Poisoning in Animals:

- diarrhea or vomiting
- disorientation
- jaundice
- staggering
- weakness or extreme tiredness
- difficulty breathing
- muscle tremors, convulsions, or seizures
- paralysis
- excessive salivation or foaming at the mouth

IS YOUR CANINE COMPANION AN IOWA WATER WATCHDOG?

We love taking our dogs on adventures to lakes and streams. Unfortunately, dogs are especially at risk of cyanotoxin poisoning because of their behaviors in water, including swimming, drinking, and licking water or scum from their fur after swimming.

Keep your dog safe at natural waterways by following the tips below! If your dog begins exhibiting any symptoms of cyanotoxin poisoning, take them to the vet right away.

IOWA WATER WATCHDOGS FOLLOW THESE SAFETY TIPS

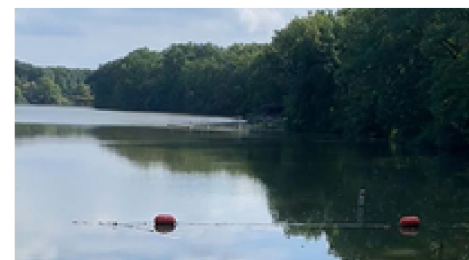
- AVOID WATER THAT APPEARS SCUMMY, SMELLS BAD, OR HAS PAINT-LIKE STREAKS
- WASH DOGS OFF WITH CLEAN WATER AFTER SWIMMING
- PROVIDE CLEAN WATER FROM THE TAP FOR DRINKING
- MONITOR FOR MOST RECENT BLOOM INFO AT IAENVIRONMENT.ORG/WWW
- WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!





BEFORE

AFTER



*Photos from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Blue-green algae can appear pea green, bright blue, and even brownish-red.

When in doubt, stay out!

LEARN MORE



iaenvironment.org/iww

Iowa Water Watch is a project of the



Iowa
Environmental
Council