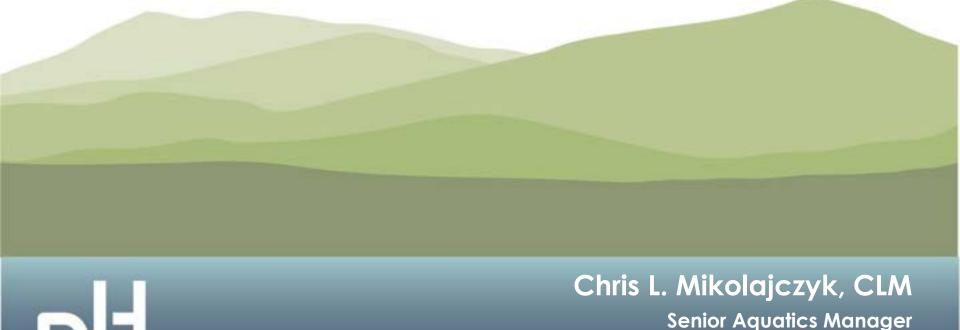
Hiking and Harmful Algae Blooms: What to know when hiking with pets



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Cyanobacteria- Danger to Pets

Spot the Algae!

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

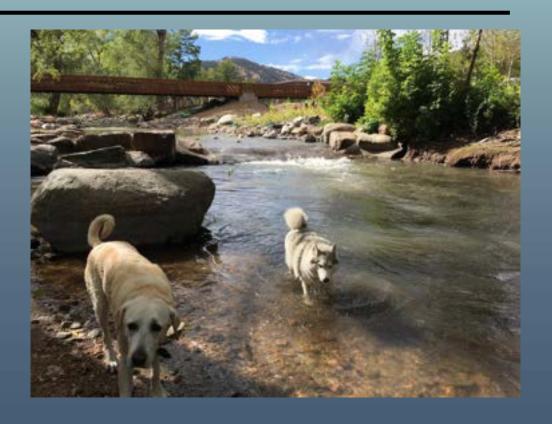
-It's slimy or looks like foam, scum or mats on the surface of the water.

-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 harmful algae smell. nauseating Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

(but not all) produce a





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



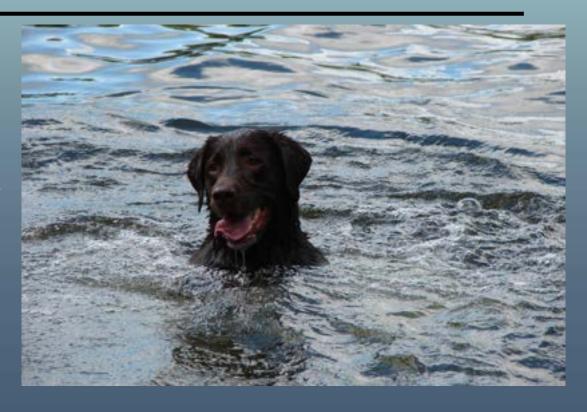
Cyanobacteria- Danger to Pets

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.





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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