

Animal Safety Alert

Cyanobacterial blooms can be deadly for pets and livestock.

When in doubt, keep animals out!



Cyanobacteria (also called blue-green algae) are microscopic organisms that can be found naturally in all types of water. Sometimes cyanobacteria rapidly grow out of control, or bloom. Cyanobacterial blooms are most commonly found in fresh water, such as lakes, rivers, and streams.

Cyanobacterial blooms can make toxins (poisons) that are deadly for animals.

- Pets and livestock can get very sick and die within hours to days after swallowing cyanobacterial toxins.
- The toxins can be in the cyanobacteria or in the water.

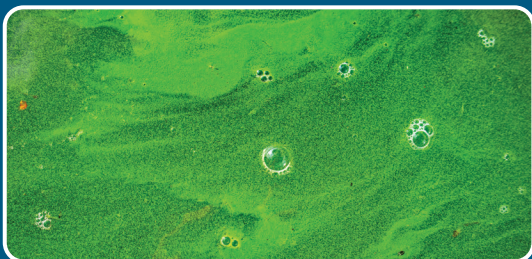
Signs of a cyanobacterial bloom



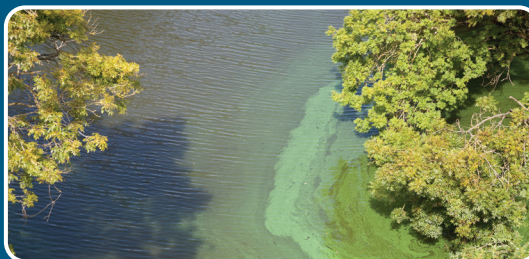
Foam, scum, mats, or paint-like streaks on the water's surface



Different colors like green, blue, red, or brown



As the bloom dies off, it may **smell like rotting plants**.



Cyanobacteria **bloom more often in summer and fall**, but can bloom anytime.

You cannot tell if a cyanobacterial bloom is toxic or not just by looking at it.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

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Protect your pets and livestock.

Keep pets and livestock away from water if you see signs of a cyanobacterial bloom, like scum or changes in the water's color.

If you think there is a cyanobacterial bloom, **do not** let your pets or livestock do any of the following:



Drink the water



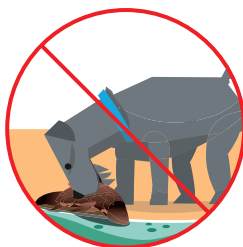
Swim or play in the water



Eat near the water



Lick their fur after being in the water



Eat dead animals, such as fish, found near the bloom



Eat mats of cyanobacteria

Take action if your pets or livestock go near or into water with a cyanobacterial bloom.

- If your pets or livestock have been in the water, immediately wash them off with clean water to keep them from licking cyanobacteria off their fur.
- Call a veterinarian if your animal shows any of these signs
 - » Loss of energy
 - » Loss of appetite
 - » Vomiting
 - » Stumbling and falling
 - » Foaming at the mouth
 - » Diarrhea
 - » Convulsions
 - » Excessive drooling
 - » Tremors and seizures
 - » Any unexplained sickness that occurs within a day or so after being in contact with water



Call **Poison Control** at **1-800-222-1222** if you have questions about cyanobacterial toxin poisoning.

Call the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** at **1-888-426-4435** or the **Pet Poison Helpline** at **1-855-764-7661** if you have questions about your pet or livestock. (Note: There is a fee for these calls.)

Report cyanobacterial blooms or illnesses to your health department online or by phone.