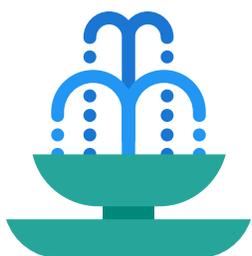




Know the **DANGERS** of Blue-Green Algae

For some pets, warmer weather means a dip in the lake or pond, but be careful- that water may be covered with blue-green algae, which can be deadly for pets.

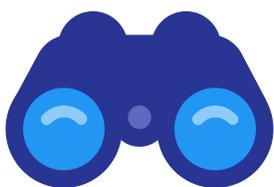
Where blue-green algae lurks



Blue-green algae bacteria grow in hot & humid weather where the water is warm and stagnant, including:

- Lakes & ponds
- Slow-moving streams
- Fountains & birdbaths
- Garden pots

How to spot blue-green algae



In Illinois, blooms usually occur during the warmer months of June thru September. Blooms may appear on the water's surface as a thick scum layer or like green paint and can be a variety of colors such as blue, green, or brown. There may also be an unpleasant odor to the bloom.

Signs & symptoms of algae poisoning

Blue-green algae can produce two types of dangerous toxins: microcystins and anatoxins. Microcystins can cause damage to the liver, including liver failure & rising liver enzymes which can lead to death within days. Anatoxins affect the nervous system and can result in death within minutes or hours to exposure.

Symptoms of microcystin poisoning can include:

- vomiting and/or diarrhea
- a dark, tarry stool
- weakness or lethargy
- pale gums

Symptoms of anatoxin poisoning can include:

- muscle tremors or rigidity
- weakness or inability to walk
- excessive salivation or tearing
- difficulty breathing
- blue discoloration of the skin
- paralysis

How to prevent algae poisoning



- Block your pet's access to blue-green algae.
- Don't allow dogs to swim/play in contaminated water.
- Don't let your dogs eat, drink, or lick algae off the water or their fur.
- Remove any standing water in your yard.
- Consider ALL algae blooms to be dangerous & avoid them.
- If you suspect your pet was exposed to/ingested blue-green algae, seek emergency veterinary care immediately.