



GREEN WATER IS DANGEROUS FOR DOGS!

HABs – harmful algal blooms - turn our slow-moving lakes and ponds into green, discolored or cloudy pools that can be dangerous to pets, people and aquatic life.

How can you spot HABs?

HABs most often happen in stagnant or slow-moving water. The bacteria turns the water solid or neon green. As a result, the water loses that clear, clean water look.

Water may still have toxins present even after the bloom is gone. Look for notices from your local government for when it's safe to go back into the water.



Dangers to Dogs

Dogs are often attracted to the smell of HABs. They can get poisoned from drinking the water or grooming their paws and fur after being in the water.

If your dog has been swimming in a lake or pond with a suspected or identified HAB, please monitor your dog closely for any signs of HABs poisoning. These signs can occur within 30 minutes to a few hours after exposure, depending on the size of the dog.

Signs of a HABs Poisoning

- Repeated vomiting (green liquid)
- Diarrhea or tarry (bloody) stool
- Loss of appetite
- 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
- Stumbling, seizures, convulsions, paralysis
- Excessive salivation/drooling
- Disorientation, inactivity or depression
- Elevated heart rate, difficulty breathing
- Skin rashes, hives

What to do if you see a HAB?

Stay Away! If the water is green, stay away from the water. It can be harmful to swim or wade in the water, eat fish or let your dog drink the water.

Report! Report the HAB to the state system.

Take Action! Join Waterkeepers Carolina's action list to help put an end to HABs.

If you suspect your dog has been exposed to a HAB, seek immediate veterinary care. Untreated HABs poisonings can kill a dog.

Report a HAB and get more information at waterkeeperscarolina.org/habs

