

# Animal Safety Alert



**Cyanobacterial blooms can be deadly for pets and livestock.**

**Cyanobacteria (CyanoHABs) are microscopic organisms found naturally in all types of water. Sometimes cyanobacteria rapidly grow, or bloom. They can have various colors like green, blue, red, or brown. Cyanobacterial blooms are mostly found in fresh water, such as lakes, rivers, and streams.**

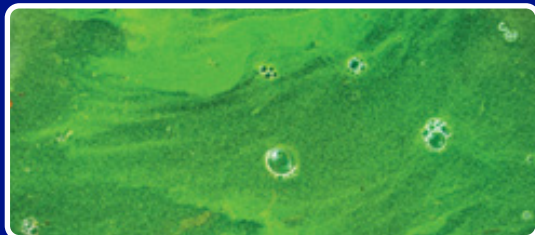
## Signs of a cyanobacterial bloom



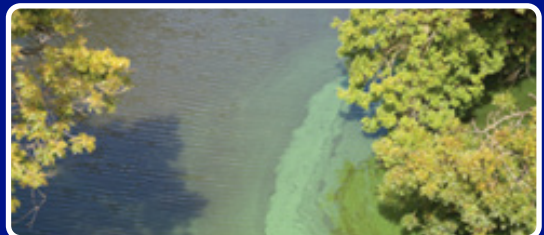
Foam, scum, mats, or paint-like streaks on the water's surface.



Benthic blooms grow up from sediment, and attach to rocks.



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

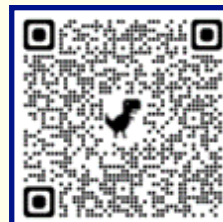


Cyanobacteria bloom more often in late summer and fall but can bloom anytime.

**You cannot tell if a cyanobacterial bloom is toxic just by looking at it. When in doubt, keep animals out!**



For more information  
**SCAN HERE**



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## Action to Prevent Contact

- Keep pets and livestock away from water if an advisory is in place or you see signs of a cyanobacterial bloom such as scum or changes in the water's color.
- Pets and livestock can get very sick and die within hours to days after swallowing small amounts of cyanobacterial toxins.
- If you think there is a cyanobacterial bloom, **do not** let your pets or livestock do any of the following:

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

## 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

## Report a bloom to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality:

- DEQ Online form ([www.deq.idaho.gov/report-a-potential-cyanobacteria-algal-bloom/](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/report-a-potential-cyanobacteria-algal-bloom/))
- By phone: (866) 671-5385
- By email: [algae@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:algae@deq.idaho.gov)

Contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435, the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661 (fees may apply) or your veterinarian for questions about your animal. Call the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare at (800) 445-8647 if you have questions about cyanobacterial toxin poisoning.



**Drink the water**



**Lick their fur and paws after being in the water**



**Swim or play in the water**



**Eat dead animals, found near the bloom**



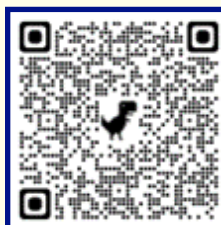
**Eat near the water**



**Eat mats of cyanobacteria**



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