



When in Doubt Keep Them Out

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are a danger to pets and livestock.

HABs include blue-green algae which are actually a type of photosynthesizing bacteria, called cyanobacteria. These organisms may produce compounds that affect the liver, nervous system and/or skin. Routes of exposure to HAB cyanotoxins are primarily through ingestion, skin contact and inhalation.

Signs and symptoms can include lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, pale mucous membranes, muscle tremors, rigidity, lethargy, respiratory distress, convulsions and death.

How can I keep my family, pets and livestock safe?

- Keep people, pets and livestock out of water with algal blooms. "When in doubt, keep them out."
- If your pets do enter the water, rinse them off well so they do not lick any algae off their fur or skin.
- Keep livestock fenced out of water with algae blooms.
- Do not let your pet eat algae off the beach.



What should I do if my pets or livestock become ill?

Time can be critical because some exposures can produce

life-threatening illnesses within a half-hour of ingestion. Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

How can I identify a HAB bloom?

Scum color varies and includes white, brown, purple, blue-green and black. Some scums may appear to be green paint spills, green globs or dots in the water. Sometimes there is a foul odor.

How do I know if compounds produced by blue green algae are present?

Cyanotoxins cannot be seen, smelled or tasted and can persist well after the bloom disappears. Cyanotoxins are not always present in algal blooms, but when they are, they are usually most concentrated in scums.

HAB information, current advisories and forms to report HAB locations

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