



# 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 nerve toxins, liver toxins and skin irritants. Routes of exposure to HAB toxins 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. 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 if your pet or livestock becomes ill.

## 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.”
- Keep livestock fenced out of water with algae blooms.
- If your pets do enter the water, rinse them off well so they do not lick any algae off their fur or skin.
- Do not let your pet eat algae off the beach.

For general HAB information, current advisories  
and forms to report HAB locations

[ohioalgaeinfo.com](http://ohioalgaeinfo.com)