

## FISHERMEN



- ◆ **DO** watch for posted signs along shoreline indicating lake status.
- ◆ **DO** wash hands and arms thoroughly after fishing and handling fish with clean, potable water.
- ◆ **If** lake is under at Public Health Warning or Watch – thoroughly wash and properly clean your catch in fresh potable water.
- ◆ **REMOVE** all internal organs and head and carefully discard into trash. **DO NOT EAT.** Toxins accumulate in these tissues.
- ◆ **EAT only** fillets of fish caught in lakes with a HAB.

For further information concerning HAB health effects on people, see the “Summer Fun” brochure or visit:

[kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- ◆ HAB season is typically from May thru October.
- ◆ Dove, Teal, and Duck Hunting Seasons are during HAB season.
- ◆ Fishermen and Hunters should be aware of the condition of the waters they are in.
- ◆ **Be Aware:** HAB toxins have the potential to become airborne, (i.e. boating), when disturbed and could cause respiratory issues when in close proximity.

Know if a lake has a HAB prior to fishing or hunting. For Information on lakes with HABS:

Call the HAB Hotline at

785-296-1664

or visit the websites

[kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness)

[kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://kdwpt.state.ks.us)

Another resource for animal diagnostic information is the **Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory** at :  
**866-512-5650.**

Cover photo by Matt Cussigh  
Inside setter photo by Mark Lehmann



## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABS)

### INFORMATION FOR HUNTERS & FISHERMEN

**WHEN IN DOUBT  
STAY OUT**



### WATCH

Harmful Algae May Be Present

Prevent Algae from Being Harmful to Humans & Animals

- Use caution when contacting lake water and wash with clean water afterward
- Avoid areas of algae accumulation
- Don't let people/pets eat dried algae or drink untreated lake water
- Clean fish well and discard gills

Keep Pets & Livestock Away From The Water

● Avoid Water Contact ● Avoid Water Drinking ● Avoid Bathing & Washing ● Avoid Swimming

● Avoid areas of algae accumulation- Clean fish well and discard gills
- Don't let people/pets eat dried algae or drink untreated lake water
- If people/pets contact lake water wash with clean water as soon as possible

For more information on harmful algal blooms, visit [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) or call the HAB Hotline at 785-296-1664.



### WARNING

Harmful Algae Present

Avoid Water Contact

● Avoid Water Contact ● Avoid Water Drinking ● Avoid Bathing & Washing ● Avoid Swimming

● Avoid areas of algae accumulation- Clean fish well and discard gills
- Don't let people/pets eat dried algae or drink untreated lake water
- If people/pets contact lake water wash with clean water as soon as possible

For more information on harmful algal blooms, visit [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) or call the HAB Hotline at 785-296-1664.

Our Mission: To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans

## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABS)

A Harmful Algal Bloom is when blue-green algae grow rapidly and in excess. They can look like foam or scum on the surface of fresh water lakes and ponds. The blooms can be blue, green, brown or red and may look like paint floating on the water. They also can have a very strong odor similar to sewage, petroleum or a musty odor.



- ◆ If the water smells and looks “yucky”, do not let your dog swim or retrieve ducks from the waterbody.
- ◆ ***There have been several dog fatalities in Kansas due to HAB poisoning.***
- ◆ **Numerous reports of human illnesses related to HABS have also been confirmed within the state.**



## HUNTERS

Signs of blue-green algae poisoning in animals are:

### Intestinal:

- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Diarrhea

### Respiratory:

- ◆ Difficulty Breathing
- ◆ Respiratory Paralysis

### Other Symptoms:

- ◆ Seizures
- ◆ Lethargy
- ◆ Jaundice
- ◆ High Liver Enzymes
- ◆ General Weakness



**Poisoning symptoms for animals may appear as quickly as 30 minutes after exposure.**

**Immediately seek veterinarian care if your pet has eaten any algae.**



## HUNTERS, cont.

- ◆ **DO NOT** let dogs eat the dried algae along the shoreline. If there is a bluish color along the shore, this is dying blue-green algae. It is toxic.
- ◆ **DO NOT** let them lick their paws if they have walked in the dying algae.
- ◆ **DO** rinse your dog off with potable water as quickly as possible if your dog swims in a bloom or walks through dried algae.
- ◆ Waterfowl swimming in a HAB water body may have toxic cells on their feathers.
- ◆ Dogs only need to eat a small amount of algae to get sick or even die.



Train dogs to come to you for a drink of water. Carry potable water for yourself and for your dogs when out hunting or going for walks along the shorelines.