

## How to stay safe!!

**Signs associated with blue-green algae poisoning in animals are:**

- ◆ Lethargy
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Diarrhea
- ◆ Convulsions
- ◆ Difficulty Breathing
- ◆ General Weakness

◆ **There have been several dog fatalities in Kansas due to HAB poisoning.**

- ◆ **DO NOT** let pets eat the dried algae along the shoreline. If there is a bluish color along the shore, this is dying blue-green algae. It may be toxic and it is a strong attractant to dogs.
- ◆ **DO NOT** let them lick their paws if they have walked in the drying algae.
- ◆ **DO** rinse your dog off with potable water as quickly as possible if you do encounter a bloom.
- ◆ It takes only a **very small** amount of ingested algae that is toxic for a dog to quickly exhibit signs of poisoning.
- ◆ **Signs** of poisoning may appear within 30 minutes after ingesting toxins.
- ◆ **Keep** water bottles for you and your dog(s) and encourage them to get a drink from you rather than the lake.

## Private Waterbodies

A quick self-assessment tool to see if your private farm pond or lake has a HAB issue is called the Jar Test. For detailed instructions on how to conduct this simple test and for further diagnostic help with a private pond, go to: [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) or call KSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at 866-512-5650.

### Sample



### Positive



### Negative



**For Weekly Lake Status:**

**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)**

**for lake status prior to fishing or hunting**

## SUMMER FUN SAFETY TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR PETS HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABS)

**WHEN IN DOUBT  
STAY OUT**



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



# What is a HAB?

When certain conditions are present, such as high nutrient and light levels, algae can reproduce rapidly. This dense growth of algae is called a “bloom.” If this bloom contains blue-green algae then toxins may be produced. If this situation occurs, it is called a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). **HABs produce toxins that can make people sick and kill pets.**

Water has a scummy, thick mat or is foamy.



Water color is red, pea-green, blue, blue-green, or brownish red.

**OR**



Water looks like it has paint spilled on it.

# What If I See one?

If you see a Harmful Algal Bloom, keep everyone, including pets, from entering the water. If the bloom is on a public lake or pond, file a report:

- ◆ Complete the Algal Bloom Report Form on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Website : [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) and click on the Algal Bloom Reporting Form or,
- ◆ Call the HAB Hotline at:  
**785-296-1664.**

## Look for posted signs before entering the water.



For further information or to report an animal illness, see: [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) and look under the Animal Information section.

# How to Stay Safe!!

## Symptoms associated with blue-green algae poisoning in people are:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Respiratory:</b>    | <b>Dermatologic:</b>    |
| ◆ Sore throat          | ◆ Itchy and/or red skin |
| ◆ Congestion           | ◆ Blistering            |
| ◆ Cough                | ◆ Hives                 |
| ◆ Wheezing             |                         |
| ◆ Difficulty Breathing |                         |

- Exposure may be from:**
- \*skin contact
  - \*inhalation, or
  - \*ingestion
- Other Flu-like symptoms:**
- ◆ Earache
  - ◆ Agitation
  - ◆ Headache
  - ◆ Abdominal pain
  - ◆ Diarrhea and/or vomiting
  - ◆ Eye irritation

## Safety Tips

- ◆ **DO** look for posted signs and follow the directions.
- ◆ **DO** rinse off with potable water after any contact with a HAB.
- ◆ **Eat fillets ONLY.** Remove and discard all internal organs and the head of your catch.
- ◆ **Be Aware:** HAB toxins have the potential to become airborne, such as from a jet ski, boat, etc., when disturbed and could cause respiratory issues when in close proximity.

**If you or your pet become ill, seek medical or veterinary attention immediately.**