

Blue Green Algae - what you need to know!



We have had several clients express their concerns about blue green algae toxicity.

Here is the basics:

Blue Green Algae is present world-wide. It prefers hot, humid conditions in warm stagnant water. It feeds off nutrients in water run off such as fertilizers and animal waste. The algae blooms in late summer and early fall.

Ingestion of this "pond scum" is toxic to humans and animals. Drinking contaminated water or grooming (licking) fur that has come in contact with the blooms may cause liver failure and/or nervous system complications. The onset of toxicity happens within minutes to hours of exposure. Even with quick aggressive treatment the prognosis of survival is extremely poor. There is no way to tell if an algae is toxic just by looking at it. The best thing to do is keep your pets away from any water that appears to have a film covering it or at the water's edge. When in doubt - Stay out!

Here's a great website if you want more details:

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/algae-poisoning>