

Puppy Love

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We are infinitely attracted to water for survival and the fun it can provide in our leisure time. Dogs have an equal fascination with the aquatic substance for the same reasons. Because H₂O is irresistible to man and animal it can lead to an unexpected encounter with toxins lingering in the life sustaining liquid: algae! Blue-green algae is not actually an algae but a microscopic bacteria (cyanobacteria) that is not visible to the naked eye. It is among the oldest organism on earth evolving roughly 3.5 billion years ago. According to the Center for Disease Control cyanobacteria "is among the most powerful natural poisons" known on the planet. The American Veterinary Medical Association states that the toxin has been "killing and injuring people and animals for longer than anyone can remember." Larry Brand, a University of Miami marine and ecology professor, believes the crisis is increasing at an alarming rate due to untreated sewage, chemicals seeping into our water, and rising temperatures due to climate change. Cyanobacteria contains two different toxins: one that causes neurological problems and one that leads to liver failure. Even just a few gulps of algae contaminated water is virtually lethal to a dog. In some cases, the exposure to this poisonous algae can be fatal within minutes. Unfortunately, there is no antidote for the toxins produced by blue-green algae. Symptoms include: drooling, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, twitching, seizures, disorientation, difficulty breathing and unconsciousness. If you suspect your dog has been exposed to blue-green algae rinse him off with clean water ASAP and rush him to the closest veterinarian office, on your drive call Animal Poison Control. It is very unlikely your vet has ever treated a patient with blue-green algae poisoning. **Animal Poison Control** may be able to provide your vet with crucial information that could save your little doxie's life: **888-426-4435**.



Not all Water is the Same!

Cyanobacteria thrives in warm weather conditions and can be found in fresh water, salt water, lakes, ponds; it can even contaminate backyard pools. When the bacteria flows into a concentrated area it gives the appearance of algae or "scummy" water on the surface. The "scum" is referred to as blooms. Algae blooms can be blue, vibrant green, brown or red. But the poisonous algae can be deceiving and lie below the surface of the water and spontaneously disappear or move to a different area in a body of water. Even though the water might look relatively clean or clear there still might be bacteria in there. Alternatively, some things that look like blue-green algae could be harmless. The toxic algae can have an unpleasant odor, but this doesn't seem to deter most dogs. The deadly blooms frequently congregate on the coast or edge of a body of water making it easily accessible for dogs. Even the merest contact with the water can be deadly because dogs tend to lick their fur and paws. Be vigilant!



Cici is loving her swim with Kyabella. Kya loves it too, she just doesn't know how to smile!