

AUGUST 2024



SITS & WIGGLES

The Newsletter of the Animal Clinic of Chardon

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

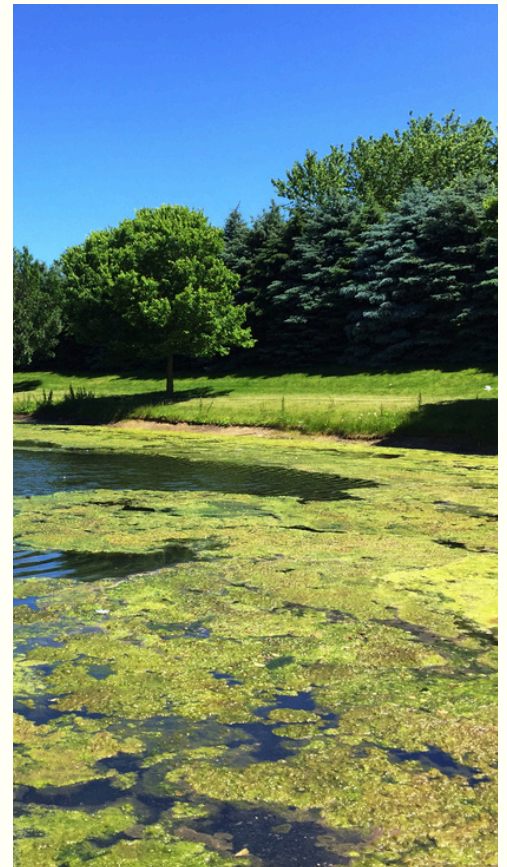
Dangers of Blue-Green Algae

Summertime Treat Recipes



DANGERS OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) are microscopic bacteria found in freshwater lakes, streams, ponds and brackish water ecosystems. They can produce toxins (such as microcystins and anatoxins) that affect people, livestock and pets that swim in and drink from the algae-contaminated water. Blue-green algae grow and colonize to form “blooms” that give the water a blue-green appearance or a “pea soup” like color. It also looks like blue or green paint on the surface of the water. Because the algae float, they may be blown by the wind into thick, concentrated mats near the shore, thus making them easily accessible to livestock, pets and people. Algal concentrations vary throughout the year, but are most abundant during periods of hot weather in mid- to late-summer months and are most likely to be found in nutrient-rich water. While most blue-green algae blooms do not produce toxins, it is not possible to determine the presence of toxins without testing. Thus, all blooms should be considered potentially toxic. Very small exposures, such a few mouthfuls of algae-contaminated water, may result in fatal poisoning. (continued on next page)



DANGERS OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Dogs that enjoy swimming and playing in lakes and ponds may be exposed to blue-green algae. Hunting dogs are especially predisposed due to increased exposure outdoors. Clinical signs of poisoning are dependent on the toxin involved. Microcystins can result in liver damage or failure. Signs of liver injury include vomiting, diarrhea, blood in stool or black, tarry stool, weakness, pale mucous membranes, jaundice, seizures, disorientation, coma, and shock. Death generally follows within days as a result of liver failure. Blood work changes include elevated liver enzymes, a low blood sugar, a low protein, and even abnormal clotting. Aggressive, immediate treatment is necessary to help treat this quick-acting, potentially fatal poison!

Anatoxins result in neurotoxicity evidenced by excessive secretions (e.g., salivation, lacrimation, etc.), neurologic signs (including muscle tremors, muscle rigidity, paralysis, etc.), blue discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes, and difficulty breathing. Death follows within minutes to hours of exposure as a result of respiratory paralysis. Livestock that graze around affected ponds or lakes and are able to drink from them are often found dead near the water source. Treatment includes anti-seizure medication, oxygen, and aggressive care by your veterinarian.

Unfortunately, there is no antidote for the toxins produced by blue-green algae. Immediate veterinary care is imperative. If you suspect your dog was exposed to blue-green algae, contact Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661 immediately for guidance.

Common signs to watch for:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Blood in stool or black tarry stool
- Weakness
- Pale mucous membranes
- Jaundice
- Liver Damage/Failure
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Disorientation
- Coma
- Muscle rigidity
- Paralysis
- Blue discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes (Cyanosis)
- Difficulty breathing
- Death



SUMMER PUPSICLES

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cup seedless watermelon or cantaloupe melon
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 tsp honey

Method:

- Remove the skin and seeds of the melon (if any), chop into small chunks and put in the freezer for three hours
- Add all ingredients to a food processor, or blender, and blitz until combined
- Add the mixture into an ice cube tray
- Put into the freezer for a minimum of four hours, or overnight
- Take the treats you want to give to your dog out of the freezer a few minutes before giving to them. This should help to make sure that they're not too hard for their teeth

BERRY FROSTIES

Ingredients:

- 12 strawberries
- 3 tbsp peanut butter (xylitol-free)
- 3 tsp cold water

Method:

- Wash the strawberries and cut off the tops
- Add the strawberries and water to a food processor, or blender, and blitz until they resemble a puree
- Pour the mixture into the molds
- Add a small amount of peanut butter to the center of the mixture
- Leave in the freezer for a minimum of four hours, or overnight
- Take the treats you want to give to your dog out of the freezer a few minutes before giving to them. This should help to make sure that they're not too hard for their teeth
- Once ready, top with a small amount of peanut butter

CUCUMBER CRUNCHIES

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup Greek yoghurt
- 1 medium cucumber
- 1 tsp honey

Method:

- Chop the cucumber into small pieces
- Add all the ingredients to a food processor, or blender, and blitz
- Pour the mixture into paw molds, or an ice cube tray
- Put in the freezer for a minimum of four hours, or overnight
- Take the treats you want to give to your dog out of the freezer a few minutes before giving to them. This should help to make sure that they're not too hard for their teeth

“The difference between friends and pets is that friends we allow into our company, pets we allow into our solitude.” – Robert Brault

ACOC Birthdays

Jodi - 8/11

Dr. Wendy 8/17

Emilia 8/26

Mike 8/31

Jillian H 8/31

