THE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE NIGHTMARE
WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW COULD KILL YOUR DOG

With the stifling summer heat, blue-green algae is posing a growing danger to dogs who love to cool off in lakes and ponds. While it may look relatively harmless, ingesting this toxic algae can be fatal to your dog in as little as 15 to 60 minutes!

STANTANT WATER: HIDDEN DANGERS
Standing and stagnant water sources are prolific breeding grounds for blue-green algae (during hot weather and other times of the year). This “algae” is actually a group of bacteria clumped together. While not all blue-green algae is toxic, you can’t tell by just looking at it. It’s better to be safe than sorry!

Blue-green algae is also toxic to cats, children and adults.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Blooms of blue-green algae typically look like:
~ Scum or pea soup;
~ Green flakes or greenish bundles;
~ Brown dots; or
~ Foam and/or film on the shorelines.

But, even without the presence of these blooms, blue-green algae bacteria can still be present in the water, but invisible.

K9 deaths due to blue-green algae poisoning have been reported in North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia.

ALWAYS BE SAFE
Always keep your dog leashed around stagnant (non-flowing) water to ensure their safety. Also carry fresh, clean water for them to drink. Don’t even let your dog swim in stagnant water as exposure to blue-green algae can be fatal or cause long-term health issues for your canine. (The toxic bacteria sticks to your dog’s fur and will be ingested as they clean themselves.)

(Sources: ASPCA.org; WSLS.com; AKC.org; KnoxNews.com & BlueCross.org.uk)
**ADDRESS YOUR DOG’S STRESS**

(POST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR AS A HANDY REMINDER)

While most parents are celebrating the return to school, other household residents are suddenly facing loneliness and anxiety.

Most pets are creatures of habit and with sudden new routines, your pet may begin to “act out” with unwanted behaviors.

**WHAT PET STRESS LOOKS LIKE**

It’s important to recognize the symptoms of stress and anxiety in your pet:

- Acting overly lethargic and/or sleeping more than usual
- Refusing to eat, play or engage in other normal behaviors
- Chewing, scratching or becoming destructive
- Over-grooming (especially in cats)
- Excessive barking, whining or panting
- Unexpected accidents in the house

**5 EASY STEPS TO ADDRESS THE STRESS**

~ Add extra exercise to help your pet release any pent-up energy and/or stress before it manifests as behavioral issues.

~ Hire a dog walker or pet sitter.

~ Arrange playdates with stay-at-home moms/dads to keep your furbaby happy and busy.

~ Enroll your dog in doggy daycare or training to help them release energy and stay happily occupied.

~ Despite the changes in the household routines, keep your dog’s schedule as consistent as possible (when it comes to meals, play, exercise and sleep/rest times).

**COOL STUFF FOR THE DOG LOVER**

**HAPPY AGAIN: YOUR DOG’S HAPPINESS DELIVERED!**

As every dog owner knows, as our dogs age, they begin to slow down with debilitating joint pain and stiffness, especially with larger and more active canines.

But now, your dog can regain their energy with a unique collagen joint supplement appropriately called, Happy Again!

Developed by biotech scientist (and dog owner), Anja Skodda used her research in cartilage tissue engineering to help her own beloved bulldog, Tony, return to his favorite activity, skateboarding!

By combining the **highest-grade blend** of the following ingredients:

- Collagen
- Hyaluronic Acid
- Glucosamine
- Vitamins

Happy Again helps both puppies (as a preventative) and aging dogs with a better quality of life **without** preservatives, fillers or any artificial ingredients.

**LEARN MORE AT HAPPYAGAINPET.COM!**

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**CANINE FIRST AID BASICS**

**RECOGNIZING PAIN IN YOUR DOG**

September is Animal Pain Awareness Month

Just like with humans, pain serves as an indication that something is wrong. But **unlike** most humans, dogs will often conceal their pain and discomfort until it becomes severe.

**POTENTIAL SIGNS YOUR DOG IS IN PAIN**

- Growling, whimpering or howling
- Biting, snapping and aggressive behavior
- Guarding behavior
- Decreased social interaction and activity
- Becoming anxious, depressed or withdrawn
- Negative reactions to being held, touched or picked up; refusal to move
- Submissive behavior
- Decreased appetite
- Chewing on limbs or paws

If you begin to see any of these signs from your dog, seek prompt veterinarian help before permanent and irreversible damage is done.


**PEANUT BUTTER AND BLUEBERRY DOG TREATS**

It’s Back-to-School and that probably means a lot of peanut butter and oatmeal in the pantry and **that means** easy-to-make dog treats!

**PEANUT BUTTER + BLUEBERRY DOG TREATS**

6 cups rolled oats, regular or quick
1 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen
2 large eggs
1/2 cup applesauce
6 heaping tablespoons peanut butter (xylitol-free!)

Preheat oven to 350° degrees F.

Add oats into food processor and pulse for 10-20 seconds. Add the remaining ingredients and mix until completely blended. Roll small pieces of dough between your hands, place on greased cookie sheets and press down on each ball with your thumb.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until edges are brown. Can be stored in an airtight container for several months.

(Source: BruceBradley.com/recipes/homemade-peanut-butter-dog-treats-with-blueberries/)

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