



PAW PRINTS

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LEKC meets the 4th Wednesday of the month @ Lady Lake Library W. Guava Street. Board/General meets 6:30. Website: www.lekcdogclub.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT LEKC

August 28th Speaker on Megaesophagus in Dogs
September 25th Speaker from Jesse Fund for Therapy Dogs
November 2nd & 3rd Eustis, Obedience & Rally Trials
November 20th, Club meeting
December: 11th, Christmas Party
January 15th, Meeting
January 23rd & 24th, Conformation Show, Ocala

August: Named to honor the first Roman emperor (and grandnephew of Julius Caesar), Augustus Caesar (63 BC-AD 14).

Puzzle of the month:

A dealer ordered a picture 12 inches by 18 inches to be framed so that it would cover just twice its former wall space, the frame to be of uniform width. How wide should the frame be? (Answer Pg. 11)

YOU CAN QUOTE ME*

Walking is a man's best medicine. (Hippocrates)

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. (John Wooden)

Bob: "If you found two \$20 bills in your coat pocket, what would you have?"

Rob: "Someone else's coat."

A philosopher is a person who doesn't have a job, but at least understands why.

Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows. (Helen Keller)

"Of course, I want to be number one. But being healthy and happy is the most important thing."
(Venus Williams)

"You're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day."
(Marian Wright Edelman)

"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose." (LBJ)

"Tenderness is the grace of the heart, as style is the grace of the mind." (May Sarton)

"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strength. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength." (Arnold Schwarzenegger)

"Tomorrow may rains, so I'll follow the sun." Paul McCartney

*Coffee News.

Blue-Green Algae and Dogs: Symptoms and Prevention

By [Miranda Carney](#)



Highlights:

- Blue-green algae are toxic and deadly when consumed in high concentrations
- Dogs are more vulnerable to blue-green algae poisoning because of their likelihood to play
- This bacteria is often found in non-flowing freshwater during hot seasons
- AKC CVO provides prevention tips and symptoms to watch for

On August 9 and 10, the news shocked dog owners across social media: three dogs died after playing in a pond in Wilmington, North Carolina, while another died after a swim in Lake Allatoona, Georgia. And just the week before in Austin, three different dogs died after playing in a lake that is now closed.

What led to the deaths of all seven dogs? Likely, liver failure was brought on by ingesting water contaminated with toxic blue-green algae.

What's Going on With Dogs and Blue-Green Algae?

On Facebook on August 9, Melissa Martin of Wilmington, North Carolina shared the passing of all three of her dogs:

“At 12:08 AM, our dogs crossed the rainbow bridge together. They contracted blue-green algae poisoning and there was nothing they could do. We are gutted. I wish I could do today over...”

Both posts have since been shared thousands of times on social media.

A local veterinarian's office in Wilmington sent out an email warning pet owners that dogs who ingest algae often face death.

“Please be aware of the current bloom of blue-green algae in our area. Blooms of blue-green algae can be toxic to canines and most often fatal. If you feel your pet has been in contact with blue-green algae please rinse with freshwater and seek veterinary help immediately,” the email reads.

That said, the so-called “algae” is not actually a type of algae but a bacteria known as cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria isn’t visible to the naked eye, but it often gives the appearance of algae when it clumps together in bodies of water. This bacteria is often found in non-flowing freshwater during hot seasons with little rainfall. Toxic algae can also grow in backyard pools and decorative ponds if they aren’t routinely cleaned.

How Do Dogs Ingest Blue-Green Algae?

Dogs more than other animals are vulnerable to ingesting the toxic algae because of their tendency to play in the water. If your dog is a fetcher and catches tennis balls or other round-shaped toys, this can lead to greater water ingestion and even [water intoxication](#). Dogs may also lick the toxic bacteria off their fur or paws.

Can Humans Be Harmed by Blue-Green Algae?

When high concentrations of these cyanobacteria toxins are consumed, they can poison not only domestic animals like dogs but humans as well.

What Causes Blue-Green Algae?

- Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen
- Stable, slow-moving, or stagnant water
- Hot temperatures
- Intermittent exposure to high light intensity

Tips to Avoid Blue-Green Algae Poisoning:

- Keep your dog leashed around bodies of water, especially if the water appears dirty, foamy, or has mats on the surface of the water.
- Don’t let your dog drink out of ponds and lakes
- Harmful algae blooms, which can be blue, vibrant green, brown or red, are sometimes mistaken for paint floating on the water. Be aware the toxins aren’t always visible.
- Toxic algae often stink, sometimes producing a downright nauseating smell, yet animals may be attracted to the smell and taste of them, according to the EPA.

What Do I Do if I Know my Dog Has Been Exposed to Blue-Green Algae?

Rinse your dog off immediately with clean water if he comes in contact with blue-green algae. Call your veterinarian immediately.

Signs/Symptoms Your Dog May Have Ingested Blue-Green Algae:

[Symptoms](#), which usually arise anywhere from 15 minutes to several days after exposure may include:

- Diarrhea or vomiting

- Drooling
- Neurologic signs such as:
- Weakness
- Disorientation/confusion
- Collapse/unconsciousness
- Seizures
- Breathing difficulties

If any of these signs occur, contact your vet immediately. If caught early enough, your vet may be able to flush out the toxins before your dog becomes completely affected.

Fruits and Vegetables Dogs Can or Can't Eat

By [AKC Staff](#)

It's not uncommon to want to spoil your dog by sharing table scraps or your favorite snack. After all, if it is safe for you to eat, it must be OK for them to eat, right? Not necessarily. While many [human foods](#) are perfectly safe for dogs, some are very unhealthy and downright dangerous, so it's critical to learn which fruits and vegetables dogs can eat. Dogs digest differently than humans do, and eating the wrong foods can lead to long-term health problems and, in extreme cases, even death. As carnivores, they have no real need for fruits and vegetables as part of their diet, but an occasional fruit or veggie as a treat is OK. Read on to find out which fruits and vegetables are OK for sharing in moderation and which should be avoided.

Fruits Dogs Can and Can't Eat

Apples

Yes, [dogs can eat apples](#). Apples are an excellent source of vitamins A and C, as well as fiber for your dog. They are low in protein and fat, making them the perfect snack for senior dogs. Just be sure to remove the seeds and core first. Try them frozen for an icy warm weather snack.

Avocado

No, [dogs should not eat avocado](#). While avocado may be a healthy snack for dog owners, it should not be given to dogs at all. The pit, skin, and leaves of avocados contain persin, a toxin that often causes vomiting and [diarrhea in dogs](#). The fleshy inside of the fruit doesn't have as much persin as the rest of the plant, but it is still too much for dogs to handle.

Bananas

Yes, [dogs can eat bananas](#). In moderation, bananas are a great low-calorie treat for dogs. They're high in potassium, vitamins, biotin, fiber, and copper. They are low in cholesterol and sodium, but because of their high sugar content, bananas should be given as a treat, not part of your dog's main diet.

Blueberries

Yes, [dogs can eat blueberries](#). Blueberries are a superfood rich in antioxidants, which prevent cell

damage in humans and canines alike. They're packed with fiber and phytochemicals as well. Teaching your dog to catch treats in the air? Try blueberries as an alternative to store-bought treats.

Cantaloupe

Yes, [cantaloupe is safe for dogs](#). Cantaloupe is packed with nutrients, low in calories, and a great source of water and fiber. It is, however, high in sugar, so should be shared in moderation, especially for dogs who are overweight or have diabetes.

Cherries

No, [dogs should not eat cherries](#). With the exception of the fleshy part around the seed, cherry plants contain cyanide and are toxic to dogs. Cyanide disrupts cellular oxygen transport, which means that your dog's blood cells can't get enough oxygen. If your dog eats cherries, be on the lookout for dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, and red gums, as these may be signs of cyanide poisoning.

Cranberries

Yes, [cranberries are safe for dogs](#) to eat. Both cranberries and dried cranberries are safe to feed to dogs in small quantities. Whether your dog will like this tart treat is another question. Either way, moderation is important when feeding cranberries to dogs, as with any treat, as too many cranberries can lead to an upset stomach.

Cucumbers

Yes, [dogs can eat cucumbers](#). Cucumbers are especially good for overweight dogs, as they hold little to no carbohydrates, fats, or oils and they can even boost energy levels. They're loaded with vitamins K, C, and B1, as well as potassium, copper, magnesium, and biotin.

Grapes

No, [dogs should never eat grapes](#). Grapes and raisins (dried grapes) have proved to be very toxic for dogs no matter the dog's breed, sex, or age. In fact, grapes are so toxic that they can lead to acute sudden kidney failure. Always be mindful of this dangerous fruit for dogs.

Mango

Yes, [dogs can eat mangoes](#). This sweet summer treat is packed with four different vitamins: A, B6, C, and E. They also have potassium and both beta-carotene and alpha-carotene. Just remember, as with most fruits, remove the hard pit first, as it contains small amounts of cyanide and can become a choking hazard. Mango is high in sugar, so use it as an occasional treat.

Oranges

Yes, [dogs can eat oranges](#). Oranges are fine for dogs to eat, according to veterinarians, but they may not be fans of any strong-smelling citrus. Oranges are an excellent source of vitamin C, potassium, and fiber, and in small quantities, the juicy flesh of an orange can be a tasty treat for your dog. Vets do recommend tossing the peel and only offering your dog the flesh of the orange, minus any seeds. Orange peel is rough on their digestive systems, and the oils may make your dog literally turn up their sensitive nose.

Peaches

Yes, [peaches are safe for dogs](#) to eat. Small amounts of cut-up fresh or frozen peaches are a great source of fiber and vitamin A, and can even help fight infections, but just like cherries, the pit contains cyanide. As long as you completely cut around the pit first, fresh peaches can be a great summer treat. Skip canned peaches, as they usually contain high amounts of sugary syrups.

Pears

Yes, [dogs can eat pears](#). Pears are a great snack because they're high in copper, vitamins C and K, and fiber. It's been suggested that eating the fruit can reduce the risk of having a stroke by 50 percent. Just be sure to cut pears into bite-size chunks and remove the pit and seeds first, as the seeds contain traces of cyanide. Skip canned pears with sugary syrups.

Pineapple

Yes, [pineapple is safe for dogs](#) to eat. A few chunks of pineapple is a great sweet treat for dogs, as long as the prickly outside peel and crown are removed first. The tropical fruit is full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber. It also contains bromelain, an enzyme that makes it easier for dogs to absorb proteins.

Raspberries

Yes, [dogs can eat raspberries](#). Raspberries are fine in moderation. They contain antioxidants that are great for dogs. They're low in sugar and calories, but high in fiber, manganese, and vitamin C. Raspberries are especially good for senior dogs because they have anti-inflammatory properties, which can help aging joints. However, they do contain small amounts of [xylitol](#), so limit your dog to less than a cup of raspberries at a time.

Strawberries

Yes, [dogs can eat strawberries](#). Strawberries are full of fiber and vitamin C. Along with that, they also contain an enzyme that can help whiten your dog's teeth as he or she eats them. They contain sugar, so be sure to give them in moderation.

Tomatoes

No, [dogs should avoid tomatoes](#). While the ripened fruit of the tomato plant is generally considered safe for dogs, the green parts of the plant contain a toxic substance called solanine. While a dog would need to eat a large amount of the tomato plant to make him or her sick, it's better to skip tomatoes all together just to be safe.

Watermelon

Yes, [dogs can eat watermelon](#). It's important to remove the rind and seeds first, as they can cause intestinal blockage, but watermelon flesh is otherwise safe for dogs. It's full of vitamin A, B-6, and C, as well as potassium. Watermelon is 92 percent water, so it's a great way to help keep your dog hydrated on hot summer days.

Vegetables Dogs Can and Can't Eat

Asparagus

No, [dogs should not eat asparagus](#). While asparagus isn't necessarily unsafe for dogs, there's

really no point in giving it to them. It's too tough to be eaten raw, and by the time you cook it down so it's soft enough for dogs to eat, asparagus loses the nutrients it contains. If you really want to share a veggie, something more beneficial is probably best.

Broccoli

Yes, [broccoli is safe for dogs](#) to eat in very small quantities and is best served as an occasional treat. It is high in fiber and vitamin C and low in fat. However, Broccoli florets contain isothiocyanates, which can cause mild-to-potentially-severe gastric irritation in some dogs. Furthermore, broccoli stalks have been known to cause obstruction in the esophagus.

Brussels Sprouts

Yes, [dogs can eat Brussels sprouts](#). Brussels sprouts are loaded with nutrients and antioxidants that are great for humans and dogs, alike. Don't overfeed them to your dog, however, because they can cause lots of gas. Cabbage is also safe for dogs, but comes with the same gassy warning!

Carrots

Yes, [dogs can eat carrots](#). Carrots are an excellent low-calorie snack that is high in fiber and beta-carotene, which produces vitamin A. Plus, crunching on this orange veggie is great for your dog's teeth (and fun).

Celery

Yes, [celery is safe for dogs](#) to eat. In addition to vitamins A, B, and C, this crunchy green snack contains the nutrients needed to promote a healthy heart and even fight cancer. As if that wasn't enough, celery is also known to fr

eshen doggy breath.

Green beans

Yes, [dogs can eat green beans](#). Chopped, steamed, raw, or canned – all types of green beans are safe for dogs to eat, as long as they are plain. Green beans are full of important vitamins and minerals and they're also full of fiber and low in calories. Opt for low-salt or no-salt products if you're feeding canned green beans to your dog.

Mushrooms

No, [dogs should avoid mushrooms](#). Wild mushrooms can be toxic for dogs. While only 50-100 of the 50,000 mushroom species worldwide are known to be toxic, the ones that are poisonous can really hurt your dog or even lead to death. Washed white mushrooms from the supermarket could be OK, but it's better to be safe than sorry; skip the fungi for Fido all together.

Onions

No, [dogs should never eat onions](#). Onions, leeks, and chives are part of a family of plants called Allium that is poisonous to most pets, especially cats. Eating onions can cause your dog's red blood cells to rupture, and can also cause vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and nausea.

Poisoning from onions is more serious in Japanese breeds of dogs like Akitas and Shiba Inus, but all dogs are very susceptible to it.

Peas

Yes, [dogs can eat peas](#). Green peas, snow peas, sugar snap peas, and garden or English peas are all OK for dogs to find in their bowl on occasion. Peas have several vitamins, minerals, and are rich in protein and high in fiber. You can feed your dog fresh or frozen peas, but avoid canned peas with added sodium.

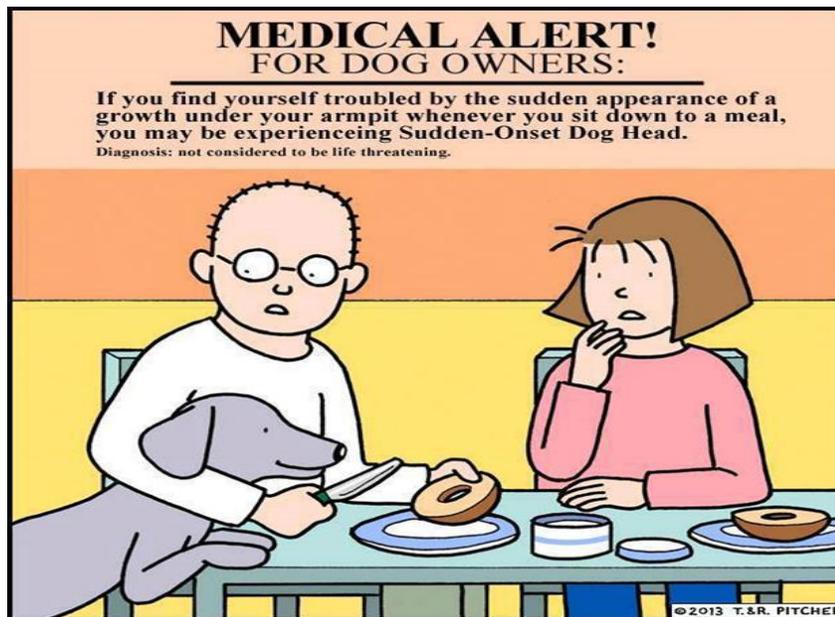
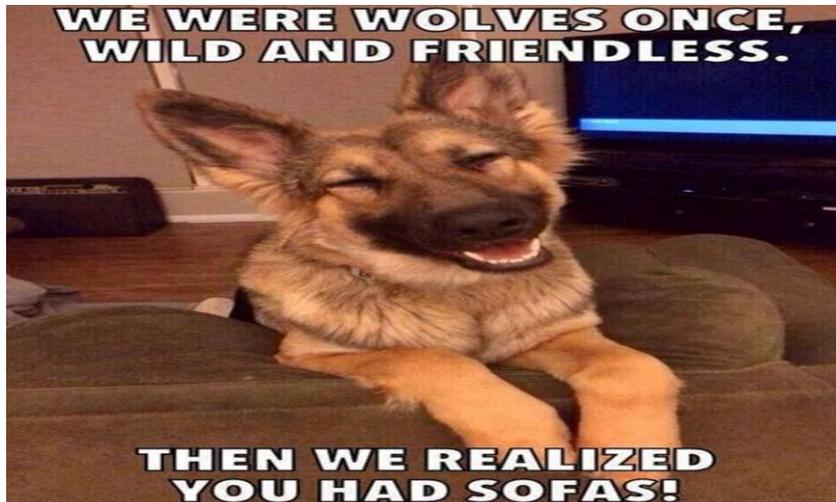
Spinach

Yes, [dogs can eat spinach](#), but it's not one of the top vegetables you'll want to be sharing with you pup. Spinach is high in oxalic acid, which blocks the body's ability to absorb calcium and can lead to kidney damage. While your dog would probably have to eat a very large amount of spinach to have this problem, it might be best to go with another vegetable.

Submitted by Pearce Kathy Pearce



"Public drinking fountains with complimentary splash guards. ... Is this a great country or what?!"



*Submitted by Kathy Pearce

Get a room! (Cesar's Way)

If your dog is spayed or neutered (as he or she should be), you can probably stop reading now- likewise if you and your dog aren't planning to visit Brazil any time soon. For everybody else, though, there's this: Rio de Janeiro will soon get its very first "love hotel" for pets. The Animalle Mundo Pet hotel will have an entire floor set aside for dogs who need a little quality time together. The \$50-a-day rate buys Rover and his inamorato a heart-shaped ceiling mirror, red cushions on the floor, and dimmed lighting. We think it's romantic-but we tend to think everything is.

Canine Cancer Check

Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Nose/Muzzle: Check the nose for lesions, debris, or excessive drainage and take note of whether it is wet or dry. (Your pet's nose will not always be wet; it will typically vary from moist to dry throughout the day.) Check for symmetry of the nose and note any differences from one side to the other.

Mouth: Check inside the pet's mouth for lesions, swelling, and bad breath. His gums should be pink and his teeth free of tartar and plaque. Check the tongue and underneath it. Pay special attention to the gums and the roof of the mouth symmetry or any obvious masses. Look at the normal ridges and ensure that there is no difference from one side to the other. Not all animals are comfortable with checking their mouths. Take it slow the first few times you work in your dog's mouth – and while you are there, go ahead and brush his teeth!

Skin: Brush back the hair and look at the skin and coat. Check for excessive flakiness, lumps, and bumps. Pay special attention to either side of the spinal cord. Make note of the normal color of the skin. Note any changes in skin color, including darker or red spots.

Legs: Check for heat, bumps, and swelling and test the range of motion of the joints. All joints should move freely with o discomfort to the dog.

Underbelly: Gently palpate the belly to look for lumps and notice if your dog seems to experience discomfort or pain. Note any bumps, lumps, and sensitive areas over the skin. Examine your dog regularly so you can determine when there are changes from his normal condition.

Eyes: Look for abnormal eye discharge; each dog has different patterns of eye weeping. Pay attention to what is normal for your dog and make note when it increases or decreases. Check the symmetry between both eyes – consider shape, color, discharge, and active movement. Observe all parts of the eye including the whites. Note any change in color, including increased redness or graying.

Jawline: Checking outside the mouth, the jaw line should maintain a consistent texture along the entire length of the jaw on both sides of the mouth, with no sensitivity to touch.

Ears: Check the ears for any abnormal swellings, debris, and odor.

Torso: Evaluate muscle tone and weight. Note any changes. If your animal is overweight, work to address the issue. Carrying excessive weight can be very harmful to a dog's overall health.

Feet: Look at the claws and the pads of your dog's feet. There should be no debris between his toes and the feet should be fairly symmetrical. Examine the nail beds for any abnormal masses or discoloration. Note excessive heat in the paws. Take note to determine what is normal for your pet.

Anus: Examine your pet's anus for cleanliness, uniformity, and a consistent color. (Dr.Shay Bracha, is a Clinical Oncologist at the OSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital.)

Answer to Puzzle: 3 inches

5 New Ways to ease Joint Pain*

Human remedies for the common age-related breakdown of cartilage, which triggers joint pain, can also soothe your slowing, limping pup. Nutrition supplements, eastern medicine, and even joint-friendly furniture are all therapeutic treatments nowadays. Learn what's available so you can help out your best friend.

Supplements: The best-know human therapy now used for doggie joint pain? Supplemental glucosamine and chondroitin, two components of joints that naturally occur in the body. Although they're nutrients, no single food can deliver sufficient amounts. But drizzling a processed supplement over dog food has been found to reduce pain and improve function even three months after feeding therapy has been stopped and it involves neither a prescription nor side effects.

Medicine: Prescribed by a vet, anti-inflammatories can offer the same quick relief for your 12 year-old yellow lab as they do for you. Obvious signs of discomfort-lameness, a limp-suggest intense, immediate pain, which elderly dogs no longer just have to bear. Ask your vet to prescribe a nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory (NSAID) like ibuprofen, which can offer fast relief.

Chiropractics: Manipulating the spine to treat and prevent arthritis, among many diseases, therapy to catch on at the vet's office. Certified veterinary chiropractors possess a special understand of a dog's skeleton. The theory is that adjustments treat an area of the spine where there's some interference of sensitive nerves. The practitioner will expertly trace problems in a dog's gait and mobility to points on his back.

Back Support: Like us, elderly dogs whose backs aren't properly supported when sleeping may experience discomfort, which can grow with time. Investing in a so-called therapeutic dog bed can't hurt. You can probably find one for less than the cost of a vet visit. Money well spent!

Geriatric Ramps and Steps: Grandma isn't the only one who benefits from a little help climbing a high step. Don't overlook furniture for Bowser that improves access to higher places around the house. Offerings include foam steps, ramps, and even harnesses for sore or immobile hind legs.*(Cesarsway)
