



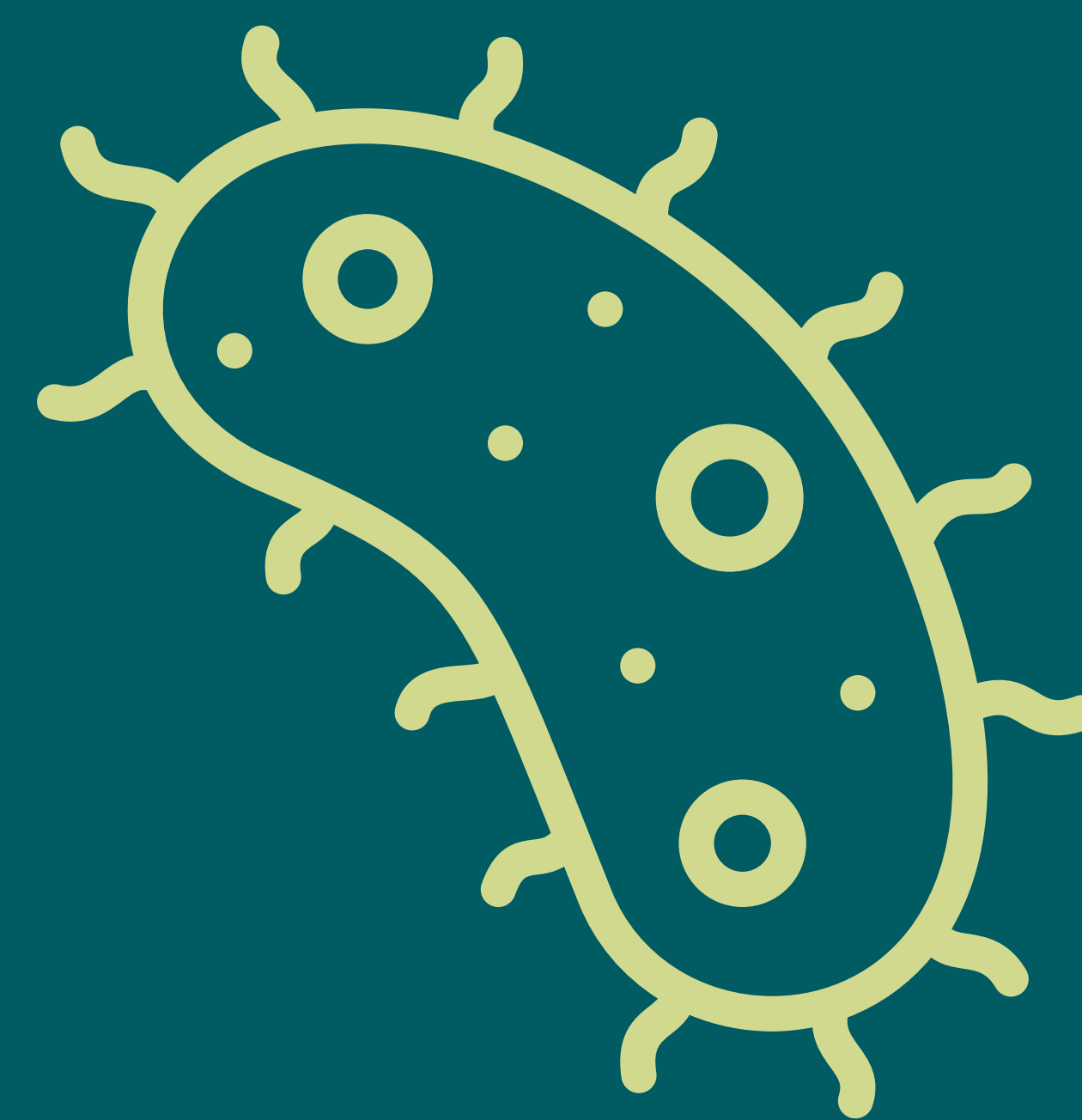
Protecting dogs from blue-green algae





What is blue-green algae?

Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, is a group of **bacteria** that can contain dangerous toxins.



These toxins can be harmful and **may be fatal** to pets, livestock and birds if ingested even in small quantities. There is currently **no known antidote** for the toxins, so prompt treatment is vital.



Warm weather increases the risk of toxic algae growth.

The background image shows a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. In the foreground, a pond is covered with a thick layer of green algae. A dark, horizontal branch lies across the lower left of the pond. At the top of the image, there is a decorative row of seven circles: the first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh are white with black outlines, while the third is a solid dark grey.

How do you spot it?

The algae may appear as
**green or greenish-brown
scum** on the surface of water
like lakes, ponds and rivers.



How to avoid exposure to blue-green algae



Look out for **warning signs** put up by local authorities or the Environment Agency.

Keep pets on a **short lead** around water bodies suspected to have a blue-green algal bloom.

If your dog has been swimming outside, **wash its coat thoroughly** with clean water afterwards.



How do dogs come into contact with blue-green algae?

Dogs can swallow it by **drinking water** from an affected lake, river or pond or while **licking their fur** after going for a swim.



Dogs may also come into contact with it even if they don't go for a paddle, as **toxic blooms may be blown** to the edges of a body of water.



What are the symptoms of exposure?

Symptoms can appear within a few minutes or hours of exposure, and commonly include:

- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- drooling
- disorientation
- trouble breathing
- seizures
- blood in faeces





What to do if you suspect exposure?

If you have any concerns or are worried your pet may have had contact with blue-green algae, **speak to your vet** as soon as you can.



Report sightings of suspected blue-green algae via the **Bloomin' Algae app**.