

Water Play and Your Dog

We all know that dogs love to play in the water, but is it really safe to let your best friend play in one of Denver's streams or lakes? Here are some things to consider before letting your dog take the plunge.



During the summer, some lakes may contain toxins related to algal blooms that can make your dog sick. Not all will be posted.



Hundreds of storm sewers discharge to Denver's streams and lakes. Those discharges contain bacteria and other pollutants that can harm your dog's health.



DDPHE monitors streams and lakes for bacteria which could make your dog sick.



Section 8-16 of the Denver Municipal Code is Denver's Leash Law which requires dogs be on leash when not in the owner's yard or at an off leash dog park. Find the off leash dog park nearest to by searching for it at denvergov.org.

Hazards in Denver's Streams and Lakes

- Bacteria
- Bluegreen Algae / Cyanotoxins
- Broken Glass
- Used Hypodermic Needles
- Concrete
- Rebar

Tips for Keeping Your Dog Safe in City Streams and Lakes

- Make sure your dog doesn't drink water or swim in lakes with bluegreen algae blooms. Bluegreen algae blooms usually look like bright green paint.
- If your dog gets into a lake with a bluegreen algal bloom, rinse them in clean drinking water to remove the algae from their fur. Dogs can ingest the toxins in bluegreen algae when they lick their fur.
- Visit denvergov.org/waterquality to better understand conditions which make the water in Denver's streams and lakes unsafe for your dog.
- Learn more about bluegreen algae at cdc.gov/habs/index.html