



April 6, 2021

The Lower Colorado River Authority has received test results confirming toxic blue-green algae continues to be present in Lake Travis.

With this finding, LCRA continues to strongly urge pet owners to keep their dogs from playing in or ingesting algae in the Highland Lakes and to treat all algae as if it may be producing toxins.

“Our ‘new normal’ is to treat all algae with caution,” said John Hofmann, LCRA executive vice president of Water. “We know blue-green algae is present in the Highland Lakes, and it is not possible to tell by looking whether it is producing cyanotoxins. With that in mind, we encourage people to stay extremely vigilant at keeping their dogs away from algae.

“Dogs playing along shoreline areas tend to drink water from the lake and lick their fur after they have been swimming,” Hofmann said. “Those very normal behaviors for dogs could be quite dangerous if dogs swallowed toxic algae or licked their fur after they came in contact with toxic algae.”

Toxicity from algae also poses a risk to people if ingested, so LCRA continues to encourage people to avoid all contact with algae to be on the safe side.

The most recent test samples were collected March 31 from the Travis Landing area near Hudson Bend, where several dogs became ill and one dog died after playing in the lake in February. Every test since February has detected cyanotoxins (dihydroanatoxin-a and anatoxin-a) in the algae gathered from Travis Landing. Earlier tests also detected very low levels of toxicity in the water at Travis Landing, but no toxicity in the water in that area was detected in the March 31 samples.

Testing in March also detected toxic algae in Lake Marble Falls and Inks Lake, as well as Lake Travis.

The Highland Lakes continue to be open to recreation, but anyone who chooses to swim or play in the lakes should take precautions to avoid contact with algae.

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