

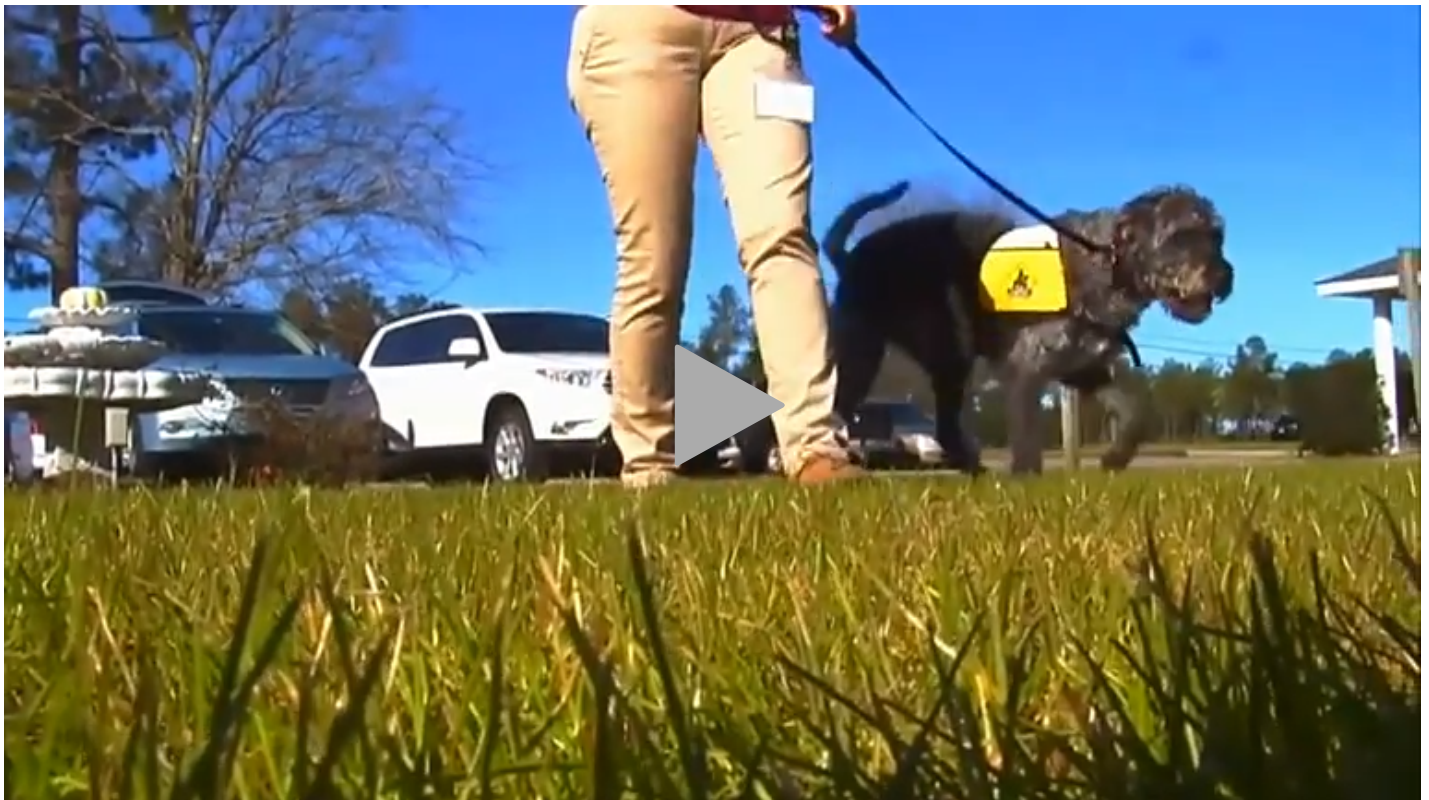


PET HEALTH · Published 6 hours ago · Last Update 5 hours ago

# Toxic algae kills 3 dogs hours after they played in North Carolina pond, owner says



By Talia Kaplan | Fox News



## NC women's three dogs die after playing in pond with toxic algae

A Wilmington, NC resident is devastated after her three dogs suddenly died yesterday following an afternoon of playing in a local body of water.

Toxic algae killed three [dogs](#) in a matter of hours after they played in a [North Carolina](#) pond last week, their owner wrote on [Facebook](#).

Melissa Martin of Wilmington [wrote](#) that around noon on Thursday her three dogs, Abby, Izzy, and Harpo, “contracted blue green algae poisoning” after swimming in a local pond.

“We are gutted,” she wrote in the post.



**Melissa Martin**

on Thursday

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. I would give anything to have one more day with them. Harpo and I had work to do, but now we will carry on in his memory and we will make sure every standing body of water has a warning sign.

I was working on our book and planned for us to meet Robin Roberts and Ellen Degeneres and hear how awe... [See More](#)



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“I wish I could do today over. I would give anything to have one more day with them.”

She added, "What started out as a fun night for them has ended in the biggest loss of our lives. We need your prayers."

### **DOG BAFLED BY HAIR CLIP IN VIRAL INSTAGRAM VIDEO**

In another Facebook post, Martin wrote that the dogs' health deteriorated quickly on Thursday. Martin said early Friday morning that she initially thought that her dog Abby had been stung by something.

Her dog Izzy started "seizing," she wrote, adding that when she had contacted a veterinarian she was told to bring her dogs. She said by the time Izzy arrived, she "was almost lifeless" and "Harpo was just beginning to seize."

"The Westies were really out of it, constantly seizing and unable to breathe well, so we decided we would let them go together peacefully," Martin wrote.





**Melissa Martin**  
on Thursday



Tonight, all 3 dogs were very bad off and it happened quickly. . Abby started first followed by Izzy. I had already left the house with Abby, Nesie was going to give them a bath, so she washed Harpo (we thought Abby had been stung by something). Then Izzy started seizing. So the vet said to bring her and Harpo. By the time Nesie arrived (maybe 15 minutes later, Izzy was almost lifeless and Harpo was just beginning to seize). The Westies were really out of it, constantly seiz... [See More](#)

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“In the process, Harpo started to go down hill soon after.”

She added, “The vet said that he was suffering and his chance of survival with no liver failure and internal bleeding was very low.” She went on to write, “I held him and told him how awesome he was, and reminded him of all the lives he touched. Then we let him go.”

### **SERVICE DOGS TRAVEL TO EL PASO TO COMFORT VICTIMS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

Martin wrote, “The hardest thing I have ever done is hold these incredible animals and watch their lives slip away.”

**Melissa Martin**

on Friday

Can't breathe, can't sleep, can't understand this. I try to live my life with no regrets...taking them to play last night will forever be my biggest regret. This house is too quiet, too big. We bought a house and chose one that we knew they would love. We were counting down the days. How do we move on? This is too hard.



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She said that her goal since then has been to warn others of the dangers of “this deadly bacteria.”

Some blooms of blue-green algae can produce chemicals toxic to animals and people who drink the untreated water, according to [the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services \(NCDHHS\)](#). The department added that the algae bloom may turn the water neon green, blue-green or reddish-brown, could cause a bad smell and taste in the water and sometimes forms a foam or scum on the water's surface.

The algae also could kill fish and can cause skin irritation or breathing irritation in people who get in the water or handle the algae, according to the NCDHHS.

On her Facebook page, Martin shared a post from Morgan Fleming of [Marietta, Ga.](#), on Sunday, who said she also lost her dog after she brought her to a lake.

In response to Fleming's post, Martin wrote, "And here we go again! It's a traumatic, excruciating death. We are heartbroken for them, and unfortunately, we know how they feel, times three."



**Morgan Fleming**

on Saturday

This morning we thought, it's so hot! Let's go to the lake! We took our sweet Arya to the lake and had the best day playing ball and swimming around! About 30 minutes later on the drive home, we noticed her making weird noises and she threw up and pooped in the car. We called our vet on the drive and they suggested we take her in. By this point our girl couldn't even stand... They told us she was in critical condition so we took her to the ER. By the time we got there, she was brain dead... Today was absolutely awful. We lost our fun, loving, and crazy girl to what we can only assume was a lake toxin such as blue green algae. Arya, no dog will ever replace you in our hearts. We already miss you more than you could know. I hope you're running around like a wild girl with all the other border collies in doggo heaven



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Fleming said she took her dog Arya to a lake on Saturday morning and about 30 minutes later on the drive home, she "noticed her making weird noises and she threw up and pooped in the car."

She called a veterinarian who told her to bring Arya.



“By this point our girl couldn’t even stand,” Fleming wrote, adding that veterinarians told her Arya was in critical condition so she took her to the emergency room.



**Morgan Fleming**  
on Saturday



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“By the time we got there, she was brain dead,” Fleming wrote.

She added, “We lost our fun, loving, and crazy girl to what we can only assume was a lake toxin such as blue green algae.”

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Talia Kaplan is a reporter for FoxNews.com. Follow her on Twitter [@taliakaplan](#)

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