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Public policy

Elevated levels of blue-green algae in Lake Aasee, Bocholt

**Results of the latest water quality test are now available //
A general ban on swimming is already in place // The city is
appealing to dog owners to keep their pets away from the
water**

During the routine monitoring of Lake Aasee, elevated levels of cyanobacteria - commonly known as blue-green algae - have been detected. As the official bathing season has already ended, a general ban on bathing is currently in force at the lake anyway due to the lack of lifeguards. Bocholt Town Council and the Bocholt Waste Management and Services Company (ESB) are now issuing a precautionary notice to all dog owners.

Analysis of a recent water sample has shown that the measured values for water clarity, chlorophyll a and the biomass of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) exceed the guideline values. Under normal circumstances during the summer months, these findings would have led to a formal closure of the bathing area. However, as bathing in the lake is prohibited once the season officially ends, there is no need for a separate official closure of the swimming area.

Particular attention must now be paid to dogs in the vicinity of the lake. Under local regulations, dogs are generally not permitted to enter the water at Aasee. Nevertheless, the town council asks all pet owners to exercise greater caution whilst out walking their pets. In particular, care should be taken to prevent animals from drinking the water or coming into contact with material washed up on the shore.

Although the cyanobacteria detected are species that do not produce toxins, health risks cannot be completely ruled out if large quantities are ingested. Bocholt City Council is continuing to monitor the condition of the lake closely so that it can respond to any changes.



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