

# One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS)

## Animal Form Guidance

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**Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Emerging  
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This document was prepared by CDC OHHABS staff.  
 For general questions on reporting or the guidance document, email [OHHABS@cdc.gov](mailto:OHHABS@cdc.gov).  
 To access more information about OHHABS, visit the OHHABS public website available  
 at <https://www.cdc.gov/habs/ohhabs.html>.

# 1. Introduction

This is the One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS) guide for the Animal Form. This guidance document is a reference manual for local, state, and territorial public health professionals who will report cases of animal illness or groups of animal illnesses associated with a harmful algal bloom (HAB) or a HAB event (e.g., waterborne exposures to a HAB or HAB toxins, foodborne intoxication with HAB toxins). For the purpose of providing guidance in this document, the term “HAB event” will be used to describe both HABs and HAB toxins in water or food.

This guidance document provides an overview of how to complete the Animal Form and descriptions of each field in the Animal Form. The Animal Form contains six sections:

- General Information
- Animal Exposure Information
- Signs of Illness and Health Outcomes
- Clinical Testing
- Supplemental Information
  - No personally identifiable information is collected within the Animal Form. Supporting documents related to the animal illness (e.g., picture of fish kill, veterinary medical report for the animal case) can be attached to the report via the Attachments Section in the righthand column.
- Author and Agency Information

HABs can affect animals through a variety of exposure pathways (e.g., dermal contact, inhalation, ingestion) making it important to identify exposure activities to better understand HAB-associated signs and symptoms of illness and health outcomes. The Animal Form is intended to capture exposure and illness information for single cases of animal illness as a result of a HAB-associated exposure as well as for large groups of animals (e.g., fish kill, flock of birds) where an investigator is not able to provide data for individual animals.

A guide to getting started with OHHABS, along with other OHHABS resources can be found at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).

## 1.1 Single Animal or Group of Animals

The Animal Form is used to report a HAB-associated illness for a single animal case. It is the best practice to create an Animal Form for each animal case to improve the understanding of HAB-associated exposures and illnesses with case-level data. In some scenarios, the Animal Form may instead be used to report HAB-associated illnesses for a large group of animals in aggregate. This additional flexibility is provided in the system to facilitate mass illness and mortality reporting (e.g., fish kill or flock of birds where an investigator is not able to provide data for individual animals).

In Table 1, examples of best reporting practices for single animal case(s) or a group of animals are provided.

**Table 1. When to report a single animal case(s) or a group of animals**

| Example   | How to Report   | Description   |
|---|---|---|
| One dog (a companion animal) became ill after swimming in a lake with a HAB.  | Create a <b>single Animal Form</b> for the single animal case.              | There is only one animal to report; therefore, a single Animal Form can be created to document this animal case.  |
| Three dogs (companion animals) became ill after drinking water in a lake with a HAB. The three dogs belonged to different owners but were at the same lake. | Create <b>three Animal Forms</b> , one for each of the single animal cases. | Multiple Animal Forms can be created to document the individual animal cases, including the exposure, signs of illness, and outcomes for each animal case.  |
| Two dogs (companion animals) became ill after swimming in a lake and eating algae with a HAB. The two dogs belonged to the same owner.                      | Create <b>two Animal Forms</b> , one for each of the single animal cases.   | Multiple Animal Forms can be created to document the individual animal cases, including the exposure, signs of illness, and outcomes for each animal case.  |
| One dog (a companion animal) became ill after drinking water in a lake with a HAB event. A duck was also found dead near the same lake.                     | Create <b>two Animal Forms</b> , one for each of the single animal cases.   | Multiple Animal Forms can be created to document the individual animal cases as the type of animals are different and the exposure, signs of illness, and outcomes may differ for each animal case. |
| A large fish kill was found on the beach near a lake.   | Create a <b>single Animal Form</b> for the group of animals.                | Fish kills or large groups of animals can be reported into a single Animal Form as a group of animals.  |

## 2. General Information

OHHABS collects general information about the animal case or a group of animal cases in two sections: the Animal Description section and the Dates section. **There are two fields in the General section which are required: “Does this illness report describe a single animal or a group of animals?” (Animal Description section) and at least one of three date fields, either the “Date of discovery”, the “Date of illness onset”, or the “Date of death” (Dates section).**

### 2.1 Animal Description Section

The Animal Description section collects descriptive information about the animal case or group of animals that were exposed to a HAB event.

**General**

Animal Description

What is the category of animal(s) being reported?

What type of animal(s) are you reporting?

Additional animal description (e.g. dog or cat breed, type of bird, amphibian, reptile, other, and other mammal)?

Does this illness report describe a single animal or a group of animals (i.e., fish kills, flocks, or herds)?

Single animal

Group of animals

- **What is the category of animal(s) being reported?** – The category of animals is a general description of the single animal or group of animals. Categories of animals include:
  - **Domestic pet** – “Domestic pets” or companion animals are animals that have been domesticated by humans and kept primarily for social benefit. Domestic pets might include arthropods, amphibians, caged birds, cats, chinchillas, dogs, ferrets, fish, guinea pigs, hamsters, horses, mice, poultry, rabbits, rats, and reptiles.
  - **Livestock** – “Livestock” or alternative livestock are animals that have been domesticated and are raised or used on a farm for leisure or profit. Livestock or farm animals might include cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, or poultry. Alternative livestock animals are non-traditional animals raised on a farm or property that might include emus, ostriches, llamas, alpacas, rabbits, antelope, or buffalo.

- **Wildlife** – “Wildlife” includes any non-domesticated animal living in the wild including those hunted for food, sport, or profit. Wildlife might include a variety of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.
- **Other** – “Other” includes any category of animal not described in this list. If selected, please provide an additional description in the “Additional animal description?” field.
- **Unknown** – Select “Unknown” if the category of animal was undetermined.

For more information on categories of animals, please visit the CDC’s Healthy Pets, Healthy People webpage at [www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index).

- **What type of animal(s) are you reporting?** – The type of animal is a more specific description of the animal case or group of animals. Animal types include:
  - **Amphibian** – “Amphibians”: include animals such as frogs or salamanders.
  - **Bird** – Birds can include domestic birds (e.g., parrots, cockatiels, parakeets) or wildlife (e.g., ducks, geese, raptors).
  - **Cat** – “Cats” can include domestic cats (i.e., companion animals) or wildlife (e.g., cougars, bobcats, ocelots, lynx).
  - **Cattle** – “Cattle” can include domestic bovine animals (e.g., cows, oxen, buffalo).
  - **Dog** – “Dogs” can include domestic dogs (i.e., companion animals) or wildlife (e.g., coyotes, foxes, wolves).
  - **Fish** – “Fish” can include freshwater fish or marine water fish.
  - **Horse/donkey** – “Horses/donkey” can include domestic or wild horses, donkeys, or zebra.
  - **Other** – “Other” includes any type of non-mammal animal not described in this list. If selected, please provide an additional description in the “Additional animal description?” field.
  - **Other mammal** – “Other mammals” can include domestic animals (e.g., ferrets, guinea pigs, mice) or wildlife (e.g., raccoon, armadillo, rabbit, sea lion, sea otter, dolphin, whale) that do not fall under any of the animal types in this list. If selected, please provide an additional description in the “Additional animal description?” field.
  - **Reptile** – “Reptiles” can include domestic animals (e.g. pet snakes, pet lizards, pet turtles, pet geckos) or wildlife (e.g., alligators, snakes, turtles, geckos).
- **Additional animal description?** – Provide any additional description information about the animal case(s). This can include specifics about the breed of the animal or the species of the animal (e.g., beagle, pelican).

- **Does this illness report describe a single animal or a group of animals?** – Indicate whether a single animal or group of animals is being described in this form. A follow-up set of questions will appear, dependent upon the answer provided here. **This field is required.**

### General

#### Animal Description

What is the category of animal(s) being reported?

  

What type of animal(s) are you reporting?

  

Additional animal description (e.g. dog or cat breed, type of bird, amphibian, reptile, other, and other mammal)?

  

Does this illness report describe a single animal or a group of animals (i.e., fish kills, flocks, or herds)?

Single animal

Group of animals

### 2.1.1 Single Animal Fields

When “Single animal” is selected, fields collecting information about the single animal illness appear.

Does this illness report describe a single animal or a group of animals (*i.e., fish kills, flocks, or herds*)?

Single animal  
 Group of animals

What is the age of the animal?

(years)

What is the weight of the animal?

Did the animal die?

What condition was the animal found?

Alive  
 Fresh  
 Scavenged  
 Decomposed  
 Unknown  
 Not Applicable

- **Single animal** – If the illness report describes a single animal, please answer the following questions.
  - **What is the age of the animal?** – If known, indicate the age of the animal in years (numeric values only). If an exact age of the animal is unknown, indicate the approximate age (e.g., 3-4 years can be reported as 4 years). For an animal less than a year of age, the age in months can be entered as the decimal age of the animal by dividing the age in months by 12 (e.g., 9 months can be entered as 0.75). For ages that are more than 3 decimal places, round up to the third decimal place.
  - **What is the weight of the animal?** – If known, indicate the known or approximate weight of the animal and select the appropriate unit for weight
  - **Did the animal die?** – If known, indicate if the animal died.
  - **What condition was the animal found in?** – If known, indicate the condition the animal was found. Check all options that apply.

### 2.1.2 Group of Animal Fields

When “Group of animals” is selected, fields collecting information about the group of animals appear.

Does this illness report describe a single animal or a group of animals (*i.e., fish kills, flocks, or herds*)?

Single animal  
 Group of animals

How many animals were affected?

Did any of the animals die?

What condition were the animals found?

Alive  
 Fresh  
 Scavenged  
 Decomposed  
 Unknown  
 Not Applicable

- **Group of animals** –If the illness report describes multiple animal, please answer the following questions.
  - **How many animals were affected?** – Identify the approximate number of animals that were affected. This includes animals with signs of illness or that were deceased at time of discovery.
  - **Did any of the animals die?** – Indicate if any animals in the group of animals died.
  - **How many dead animals were counted?** – If any of the affected animals died, indicate the known or approximate number of dead animals.
  - **What condition were the animals found?** – If known, indicate the condition the animals were found. Check all options that apply.

## 2.2 Dates Section

The Dates section collects date information for the animal case(s) that were exposed to a HAB event. **At least one of three date fields is required for this section, either the “Date of discovery”, the “Date of illness onset”, or the “Date of death”.**

**Dates**

Did the animal have exposure to algae and/or algal toxins on a single date or multiple dates?

|                        | Date  | Time (approximate)  |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Date of first exposure | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="--:-- --"/> |
| Date of last exposure  | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="--:-- --"/> |
| Date of discovery      | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="--:-- --"/> |
| Date of illness onset  | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="--:-- --"/> |
| Date of death          | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/> | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="--:-- --"/> |

Date of notification to local, territorial, tribal or state health authorities

Date remarks

- Did the animal have exposure to algae and/or algal toxins on a single date or multiple dates? –**  
 Check the option that best describes the animal(s) exposure to algae or algal toxins. If the animal case(s) were exposed on a single day, check “Single date”. If the animal case(s) were exposed multiple times over several days, check “Multiple dates”.
- Date of first exposure (DD/MM/YYYY) –** Indicate the date when the animal case(s) had their first exposure to algae or algal toxins. For an animal with multiple exposure dates, indicate the first exposure date.

- **AM/PM** – Select “AM” or “PM” for the time of first exposure. If the exact “Time” is known, please include this information in the “Date Remarks” field. AM is from midnight to noon, and PM is from noon to midnight.
- **Date of last exposure (DD/MM/YYYY)** – Indicate the date when the animal case(s) had their last exposure to a HAB or HAB event. For an animal with a single exposure in a single day, this will be the same as the “Date of first exposure”. For an animal with multiple exposures within a single day, report the date and time of the last exposure if known. For an animal with multiple exposure dates, indicate the last date of exposure.
  - **AM/PM** – Select “AM” or “PM” for the time of last exposure. If the exact “Time” is known, please include this information in the “Date Remarks” field. AM is from midnight to noon, and PM is from noon to midnight.
- **Date of discovery (DD/MM/YYYY)** – The “Date of discovery” is the date when an animal was first found ill or first discovered if the animal was deceased. Indicate the date when the animal case(s) were discovered. If multiple animals were discovered on different dates, report the first date of discovery.
  - **AM/PM** – Select “AM” or “PM” for the time of last exposure. If the exact “Time” is known, please include this information in the “Date Remarks” field. AM is from midnight to noon, and PM is from noon to midnight.
- **Date of illness onset (DD/MM/YYYY)** – Indicate the date when the animal(s) first displayed signs of illness. If multiple animals displayed signs of illnesses, report the first date of illness.
  - **AM/PM** – Select “AM” or “PM” for the time of last exposure. If the exact “Time” is known, please include this information in the “Date Remarks” field. AM is from midnight to noon, and PM is from noon to midnight.
- **Date of death (DD/MM/YYYY)** – If the animal case(s) died, indicate the date of death. If multiple animals died, report the first date of death.
  - **AM/PM** – Select “AM” or “PM” for the time of last exposure. If the exact “Time” is known, please include this information in the “Date Remarks” field. AM is from midnight to noon, and PM is from noon to midnight.
- **Date of notification to Local, Territorial, Tribal, or State Health Authorities (DD/MM/YYYY)** - If a notification about the animal illness(es) was sent to a health authority, indicate the date the notification was sent.
- **Date remarks** – Describe any other relevant date information that was not documented above.

### 3. Exposure Description

OHHABS collects exposure information about the animal case(s) in three sections: the Location section, the Activities section, and the Exposure Routes and Remarks section. **There is one required field in the Exposure Description section: “State(s) where exposure occurred?” (Location section).**

#### 3.1 Location Section

The Location section collects information on where the animal case(s) were exposed to a HAB event.

**Animal Exposure Description**

Location

States and Counties where exposure occurred?

[+ Add States](#)

| State                    | Counties |
|--------------------------|----------|
| <i>No items selected</i> |          |

---

Setting(s) of the exposure?

Select...

Specific location name

- **States and Counties where exposure occurred?** – Indicate the state(s) or jurisdiction(s) where the animal’s exposure occurred. If the exposure occurred in multiple states, select all states that apply. **This is a required field.** Afterwards, please select the counties in which the exposure occurred. For guidance on multistate exposures or foodborne exposures, please refer to the OHHABS Multistate Guidance document or the OHHABS Foodborne Guidance document at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).

For guidance on multistate exposures or foodborne exposures, please refer to the OHHABS Multistate Guidance document or the OHHABS Foodborne Guidance document at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).

- **Setting(s) of the exposure?** – Indicate the setting(s) where the animal(s) may have been exposed to algae or algal toxins. More than one setting may be selected.
- **Specific location name** – The “Specific location name” is the specific name of a beach, park, or water body where the animal(s) may have been exposed to algae or algal toxins.

The 'Add States' dialog box contains a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'Search'. Below the search bar is a list of states, each with an unchecked checkbox: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, and Delaware. At the bottom of the list, it says '0 selected'. At the bottom right of the dialog box, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Save'.

### 3.2 Activities Section

The Activities section collects information on activities resulting in exposure to algae or algal toxins for the animal case(s). If an “Exposure source” is selected, please complete the corresponding fields in the row. If there is more than one “Exposure activity”, please create and complete a new row to collect information about each “Exposure activity”. A new row for the “Exposure activity” can be created by clicking on the “Add” button. To delete a row and all of the corresponding information in that row, click on the “Delete” button. A pop-up will appear to confirm deletion—data cannot be retrieved once deleted.

The 'Activities' section has a header 'Activities' and a button '+ Add Activity'. Below is a table with two columns: 'Source' and 'Activity'. The first row has 'Water - River/Stream' in the 'Source' column and '• Recreational' and '• Duration: 30 Minutes' in the 'Activity' column. A red minus icon is to the right of the activities.

| Source               | Activity   |
|----------------------|--|
| Water - River/Stream | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational</li> <li>• Duration: 30 Minutes</li> </ul> |

- **Exposure source** – Indicate a single source of exposure (e.g., food, water) to algae or algal toxins. The following fields in this section further characterize the exposure source and related activities. Add a new row for a different single “Exposure source”.

- **Exposure activity** – Provide a brief description of the “Exposure activity” related to the “Exposure source” (e.g., swimming in water, eating fish).
- **Water type** – If applicable, select the “Water type” that best describes the “Exposure source”. For example if the exposure occurred in a Lake, select “River/Stream”.
- **Food type** – Indicate the “Food type” for the food item implicated. This list supports reporting general and more specific reporting of types of fish. For example, if an exposure occurred from eating grouper but the specific type is not listed, select “Grouper, other”. However, if the fish was determined to be tiger grouper, a specific type of grouper, select “Grouper, tiger”. If the type of food is not listed, select “Other” and explain in the “Exposure Remarks” field. If the food item is unknown, select “Unknown” and explain in the “Remarks” field.
- **Duration** – Indicate the amount of time the animal case(s) performed the “Exposure activity”. Estimates of duration may be included. For repeated exposure activities in a single day (e.g., swam in a lake twice in one day), the total duration time may be reported. For exposures that occurred on multiple days, create a new row to document each day’s duration (e.g., swimming one day (4 hours) and swimming second day for (6 hours), if known. If only the total duration time is known, report the total duration time (e.g., swimming on 2 different days for a total of 6 hours) and describe further the in the “Remarks” field.
  - **Number** –Indicate the number for duration in this field up to two decimal places (e.g., 2.25)
  - **Unit** – Indicate the unit of time for duration in this field (e.g., Minutes, Hours, Days).

### 3.3. Exposure Routes and Remarks Section

The Exposure Routes and Remarks section collects information regarding the route of exposure for the animal case(s).

**Exposure Routes and Remarks**

What were the route(s) of exposure?

Ingestion

Inhalation

Skin contact

Unknown

Other Route ▾

Exposure Remarks

- **What were the routes of exposure?** – Identify all known and suspected routes of exposure that may have occurred. Select all that apply.
  - **Ingestion** – “Ingestion” includes eating food contaminated with algae or algal toxins, eating supplementary dietary pills contaminated with algae or algal toxins, swallowing water that containing algae or algal toxins, or eating other materials (e.g., scum, algae mats, dead fish, etc.).
  - **Inhalation** – “Inhalation” includes breathing in any mist or airborne particles that contain algae or algal toxins.
  - **Skin contact** – “Skin contact” includes any direct skin contact with algae or algal toxins or with water containing algae or algal toxins.
  - **Other** – “Other” may include any other route not listed above. If “Other” is selected, please describe the other route of exposure in the remarks.
  - **Unknown** – Select “Unknown” if the animal case had an exposure to algae or algal toxins but the route of exposure was not identified.
- **Exposure Remarks** – Describe any additional information regarding the animal case’s exposure (e.g., known exposure, suspected exposure, multiple exposures).

## 4. Signs of Illness and Health Outcomes

This section collects information about any illnesses or health outcomes experienced by the animal case(s) in three sections: the Signs of Illness section, the Medical Care and Health Outcomes section, and the Health History and Differential Diagnosis section.

### 4.1 Signs of Illness Section

The Signs of Illness section collects information about signs of illness displayed by the animal case(s) in the table and a question. In the table, please fill out the subsequent fields in a row for each “Sign”. If more than one “Sign” of illness was displayed by the animal(s), add a new row to report more information about a different “Sign”. In the table, a new row for a “Sign” can be created by clicking on the “Add” button. To delete a row and all of the corresponding information in that row, click on the “Delete” button. A pop-up will appear to confirm deletion—data cannot be retrieved once deleted.

**Illness and Outcomes**

Signs of Illness

+ Add Sign

| Sign | Information  |
|------|--|
| Rash | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time to onset: 3 Hours</li> <li>Duration: 3 Hours</li> <li>No recurrences following multiple exposure</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;">-</div> |

Were signs/symptoms consistent with the route(s) of exposure?
 

v

- Sign** – Select the “Sign” of illness in the picklist that best describes any illnesses in the animal(s). Signs of illness can include those observed by a non-veterinary practitioner or those diagnosed by a veterinary practitioner (e.g., veterinarian, veterinary technician). If a “Sign” of illness is not listed, please select “Other” and describe the sign in the “Remarks” field.
- Time to onset** – Enter the numeric value of “Time to onset” up to 2 decimal places (e.g., 2.15) in this field. “Time to onset” is the time between exposure to algae or algal toxins and when the signs or symptoms of illness began in minutes, hours, or days.
- Onset unit** – Indicate the unit of time for the “Time to onset” (i.e., Minutes, Hours, Days).

- Duration of signs** – Enter the numeric value for the duration of a “Sign” of illness up to 2 decimal places for the duration in this field (e.g., 2.15). “Duration of signs” is the length of time the sign of illness lasted. For example, if a rescued bird had symptoms that appeared on July 4<sup>th</sup> and resolved on July 7, the duration of illness would be 4 days (July 4–7).
- Duration unit** – Indicate the unit of time for the “Duration of signs” (i.e., Minutes, Hours, Days).
- Recurrence following multiple exposures?** – If multiple exposures recurred (e.g., swimming in the same lake on different days), indicate whether the “Sign” of illness reoccurred after the additional exposures. If “Yes”, please describe in the “Medical Care and Health Outcomes Remarks” field.
- Were the signs consistent with the routes of exposure?** – Indicate whether the signs of illness were consistent with the route of exposure. An example of a consistent sign and route of exposure may include animal(s) that experienced gastrointestinal issues such as vomiting or diarrhea after eating algae on the beach. If it is not possible to determine whether the signs were consistent, select “Unknown.”

The screenshot shows a form titled "Add Sign of Illness" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form contains the following fields:

- Sign:** A dropdown menu with "Rash" selected.
- Time to onset (unit):** A numeric input field containing "3" and a dropdown menu with "Hours" selected.
- Duration (unit):** A numeric input field containing "3" and a dropdown menu with "Hours" selected.
- Recurrence following multiple exposures?:** A dropdown menu with "No" selected.

At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Save".

#### 4.2. Medical Care and Health Outcomes Section

The Medical Care and Health Outcomes section collects information on any medical care that the animal(s) received and health outcomes of the animal(s).

| Medical Care and Health Outcomes  |
|---|
| <p>Did the animal(s) receive veterinary medical care or treatment?</p> <input type="text"/>                             |
| <p>Did the animal(s) get admitted to a veterinary facility?</p> <input type="text"/>                                    |
| <p>Do you have additional information about medical care or health outcomes for the animal(s)?</p> <input type="text"/> |
| <p>Medical Care and Health Outcomes Remark</p> <input type="text"/>   |

- **Did the animal(s) receive veterinary medical care or treatment?** – Indicate whether the animal(s) received any veterinary medical care or treatment for their exposure or subsequent signs of illness.
- **Did the animal(s) get admitted to a veterinary facility?** – Indicate if the animal(s) were admitted to a veterinary facility for any span of time (e.g., a couple of hours, overnight, several days).
- **Do you have additional information about medical care or health outcomes for the animal(s)?** – Indicate if there is any additional information about the medical care or health outcomes for the reported animal(s). If “Yes”, please include this information in the “Medical Care and Health Outcome Remarks” field or attach it to the form.
- **Medical Care and Health Outcome Remarks** – Provide any other relevant information about the animal(s)’ medical care or health outcome that may not have been captured in this section. For companion animals, please do not include personally identifiable information about the companion animal’s owners (e.g., owner’s name, owner’s address).

### 4.3 Health History and Differential Diagnosis Section

The Health History and Differential Diagnosis section collects information on the animal case(s)’ health history and differential diagnosis. If the response is “Yes” to any of the following questions in this section, please enter related information in the “Health History and Differential Diagnosis Remarks” field.

| Health History and Differential Diagnosis  |
|--|
| <p>Did the animal(s) have any pre-existing medical conditions or disabilities?</p> <input type="text"/>            |
| <p>Did the animal(s) receive any medications in the month before illness onset?</p> <input type="text"/>           |
| <p>Were other causes of the illness investigated?</p> <input type="text"/>   |
| <p>Were environmental samples (e.g., mushrooms) tested to rule out other possible causes?</p> <input type="text"/> |
| <p>Health History and Differential Diagnosis Remarks</p> <input type="text"/>                                      |

- **Did the animal(s) have any pre-existing medical conditions or disabilities?** – Indicate if the animal(s) had any pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., acute illnesses, chronic illnesses, injuries, non-infectious conditions).
- **Did the animal(s) receive any medications in the month before illness onset?** – Indicate if the animal(s) had taken any medication within the month prior to their illness. Medications may include but are not limited to any oral medications, injections, or topical medications such as flea or tick medication.
- **Were other causes of the illness investigated?** – Indicate if other causes of illness were considered during medical treatment or care.
- **Were environmental samples tested to rule out other possible causes?** – Identify if environmental samples (e.g., mushrooms, water, food) were tested to rule out other possible causes of illness.

## 5. Clinical Testing

The Clinical Testing portion of the form collects information about any clinical testing performed for animal(s) in three sections: The Clinical Testing section, the Test Results section, and the Clinical Testing Remarks section.

### 5.1 Clinical Testing Section

The Clinical Testing section collects information on any testing performed on clinical specimens collected from the animal(s).

**Clinical Testing**

Clinical Testing

Were clinical specimens tested?

Yes ▾

What type(s) of clinical testing were done to diagnose the illness or rule out other causes of illness?

Bloodwork

Culture

Fecal analysis

Histopathology

Skin biopsy

Stomach content analysis

Toxicology

Urinalysis

X-ray

Unknown

None

Other ▾

- **Were clinical specimens tested?** – Indicate if clinical specimens were collected and tested.
- **What type(s) of clinical testing was done to diagnose the illness or rule out other causes of illness?** – If clinical specimens from the animal(s) were tested, check all types that were performed.

## 5.2 Test Results Section

The Test Results section includes a table to collect detailed information about test results for clinical specimens. Refer to laboratory result data for specimen testing results. In the absence of routine clinical testing for algae and algal toxins, users may report test results for other pathogens as this information may further help to rule out other causes of illness.

Clinical Test Results

[+ Add Clinical Test Result](#)

| Etiology                                 | Result |
|--|--------|
| <i>No Clinical Test Results provided</i> |        |

The fields in a single row describe one test result. If there is more than one clinical specimen test result, please create and complete a new row to document the test result. In the table, a new row for the test result can be created by clicking on the “Add” button. To delete a row and all of the corresponding information in that row, click on the “Delete” button. A pop-up will appear to confirm deletion—data cannot be retrieved once deleted.

**Add Clinical Test Result**
✕

---

Classification

Genus or toxin      Species      Sub-species  
       

---

Detected in clinical specimen?

Detected in which types of specimens?

Concentration      Unit  
   

Test type

Cancel    Save

- **Classification** – Indicate the “Classification” or the broadest description of the algae, algal toxin, or other pathogen tested for in a clinical specimen. For more information on the classification of algae, toxins, and other pathogens please refer to the OHHABS Algae, Algal Toxins, and Other Pathogens List at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).

The options for classification include:

- Cyanobacteria
- Diatoms
- Dinoflagellates
- Gonyaulacales
- Gymnodiniales
- Peridinales
- Prorocentrales
- Raphidophyceans
- Toxin – Algal toxins
- Other – Other microbial pathogens, chemical, and non-algal toxins

- **Genus or toxin** – Indicate the “Genus or toxin” name for the algae, algal toxin, or other pathogen tested for in clinical specimen. This field is dependent on what is selected in the Classification field. For more information about the Genus list in OHHABS, please refer to the OHHABS Algae, Algal Toxins, and Other Pathogens Lists at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).
- **Species** – Indicate the “Species” name for the algae or other pathogen tested for in a clinical specimen. This field is dependent on what is selected in the Genus or toxin field. For more information about the Species list in OHHABS, please refer to the OHHABS Algae, Algal Toxins, and Other Pathogens Lists at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).
- **Sub-species/Serotype/Genotype** – If applicable, indicate the “Sub-species/Serotype/Genotype” name for the algae or other pathogen tested for in a clinical specimen. This field is dependent on what is selected in the species field. For algae, here are various abbreviations for subspecies or taxonomic rankings below the algae species for botanical nomenclature:
  - **var.** –variety
  - **f.** – forma
  - **subsp.** – subspecies

For more information on algal nomenclature, visit the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants website at [www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main](http://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main).

For more information about the sub-species list in OHHABS, please refer to the OHHABS Algae, Algal Toxins, and Other Pathogens Lists at [www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/using-ohhabs).

- **Detected in clinical specimen?** – Indicate if the algae, algal toxin, or other pathogen was detected in a clinical specimen.
- **Detected in which types of specimens?** – Identify the type of clinical specimen in which the testing for algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens was performed. Multiple specimen types can be selected.
- **Concentration** – If applicable, indicate the concentration of the algae, algal toxin, or other pathogen detected in the clinical specimen up to 3 decimal places (e.g., 0.123).
- **Concentration Unit** – Indicate the concentration unit of the algae, algal toxin, or other pathogen detected in the clinical specimen.
- **Test Type** – Indicate the type of clinical test used to detect the algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens in a clinical specimen. If more information about the “Test type” (e.g., the specific name of the kit, the lot number) or testing performed on the clinical specimen is available, please describe in the “Clinical Testing Remarks” field. “Test type” options include:
  - **Culture** – Indicate “Culture” if testing was performed to detect algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens through microbial growth in a nutritional solid (e.g., agar) or liquid medium (e.g., liquid nutrient broth).
  - **DNA or RNA Amplification/Detection (PCR, RT-PCR)** – Indicate “DNA or RNA Amplification/Detection” if testing was performed to detect algae, algal toxins, or other

pathogens through the amplification of DNA or RNA specific sequences (e.g., amplifying a DNA sequence of a specific algae in a blood sample) with PCR and RT-PCR methods.

- **DNA or RNA sequencing** – Indicate “DNA or RNA sequencing” if testing was performed to detect algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens by identifying the specific DNA or RNA sequences with sequencing techniques including, but not limited to, next-generation sequencing (NGS), whole genome sequencing (WGS), or Sanger sequencing.
- **Microscopy (Fluorescent, EM)** – Indicate “Microscopy” if testing was performed to detect algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens through imaging methods including but not limited to bright field microscopy, phase contrast microscopy, fluorescent microscopy, confocal microscopy, or electron microscopy.
- **Other** – Indicate “Other” if testing was performed to detect algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens but is not listed as an option. If “Other” is selected”, please describe in the “Clinical Testing Remarks” field.
- **Serological/Immunological Test (ELISA, EIA)** – Indicate “Serological/Immunological Test” if testing was performed to detect algae, algal toxins, or other pathogens through the use of antibodies including, but not limited to, ELISA or EIA testing (e.g., ELISA for anatoxin-a or microcystins).
- **Unknown** – Indicate “Unknown” if testing was performed but the “Test Type” was not known.

### 5.3 Clinical Testing Remarks Section

The Clinical Testing Remarks section collects any additional information regarding testing performed on clinical specimens from an animal case or group of animals.

Clinical Testing Remarks *(Please include any other clinical testing information)*

Clinical Testing Remarks

- **Clinical Testing Remarks** – Describe any relevant information not captured above regarding clinical testing performed on the animal case(s)' specimens. For companion animals, do not include personally identifiable information about the companion animal's owner(s) (e.g., owner's name or address).

## 6. Supplemental Information

OHHABS collects supplementary information for the animal illness that may not have been captured elsewhere in the form.

### 6.1 General Remarks Section

This General Remarks section collects descriptive information that may not have been collected elsewhere in the form.

The screenshot shows a form section titled "Supplemental Info" with a grey header. Below the header is a light grey bar containing the text "Remarks (Please include or attach any other relevant information not captured in this form)". Underneath this is a white box labeled "General Remarks" which contains a large, empty text input area with a small cursor icon at the bottom right corner.

- **General Remarks** – Describe any relevant information not captured in the animal form. For companion animals, do not include personally identifiable information about the companion animal’s owners (e.g., owner’s name or address).

## 7. Attachments

Attachments may be uploaded via the Report panel on the right side of the interface. Please attach any relevant information about the animal case not captured in the form. For companion animals, do not include personally identifiable information (e.g. owner's name or address). Attachments may include information that further characterizes the animal illness (e.g., information about exposures, illness, clinical findings, health outcomes, etc.). File types that can be attached include images (e.g., jpg, png), documents (e.g., Word, PDF), or other data file types such as Excel.

The screenshot displays the 'Report' panel of the OHHABS Animal Form. It includes fields for CDC Report ID (5056), Report ID (Test\_5678), Reporting Year (2021), Agency (CDC), and Owner (Muhammad Thuneibat). A 'Change' link is present. A notification states 'There are 14 incomplete entry items for this form.' The 'General' section lists required fields: Animal Classification, Animal Category, Animal Type, and Animal Single or Group. A 'Show more' link is also visible. Below these sections are 'Comments (0)' and 'Attachments (0)'. The 'Attachments (0)' section is highlighted with a red box and contains a white box with the text 'Drop file here, or click to browse (10 MB max)'. At the bottom, there is a 'Report History' link.

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| CDC Report ID:  | 5056               |
| Report ID:      | Test_5678          |
| Reporting Year: | 2021               |
| Agency:         | CDC                |
| Owner:          | Muhammad Thuneibat |

[Change](#)

ⓘ There are 14 incomplete entry items for this form.

**General**

- ⓘ **Animal Classification** - Provide the animal classification.
- ⓘ **Animal Category** - Provide the category of animal being reported, if available.
- ⓘ **Animal Type** - Provide the type of animal being reported, if available.
- ⓘ **Animal Single or Group** - Single or group of animals affected is required.

[Show more](#)

Comments (0) ▾

Attachments (0) ▲

Drop file here, or click to browse  
(10 MB max)

[Report History](#) ▾

## 8. Author and Agency Information

This section is automatically populated with the author's information and does not require any additional information. Refer to the Getting Started and Technical Features guidance at [www.cdc.gov/habs/pdf/ohhabs-getting-started](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/pdf/ohhabs-getting-started) for additional information about this section.

Report

---

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| CDC Report ID:  | 5056               |
| Report ID:      | Test_5678          |
| Reporting Year: | 2021               |
| Agency:         | CDC                |
| Owner:          | Muhammad Thuneibat |

Change

**ⓘ** There are 14 incomplete entry items for this form. ▲

**General**

- **ⓘ Animal Classification** - Provide the animal classification.
- **Animal Category** - Provide the category of animal being reported, if available.
- **Animal Type** - Provide the type of animal being reported, if available.
- **ⓘ Animal Single or Group** - Single or group of animals affected is required.

**Show more**

---

Comments (0) ▼

---

Attachments (0) ▲

Drop file here, or click to browse  
(10 MB max)

---

Report History ▼