What is Valley Fever?

Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis) is an infection caused by a fungus primarily found in the soil of the semi-arid desert regions of the southwestern United States, although the geographic range is expanding. People and animals get Valley Fever by breathing in the fungal spores in the environment. It is not contagious and cannot spread from one person or animal to another. Valley Fever primarily affects the lungs but, especially in dogs, can spread to other areas of the body, such as the bones, eyes or nervous system.

LIFE CYCLE OF VALLEY FEVER FUNGUS



Join us in the fight to **End Valley Fever**



Scan the code or visit anivive.com/register

Anivive Lifesciences and the Valley Fever Center for Excellence at the University of Arizona have partnered to develop a vaccine to protect dogs against Valley Fever.

Thousands of dog owners have demonstrated their desire for a vaccine, and now we'd like to invite you to be among the first to receive this breakthrough preventative as soon as it's available.

Join to be a first-to-know VIP.

Consult your veterinarian for more information

ANIVIVE





Valley Fever & Your Pet

Valley Fever Center for Excellence

Forms of Valley Fever

The primary (pulmonary) disease form is limited to the lungs. Signs of primary Valley Fever can include a harsh dry cough, fever, lack of appetite, and lethargy or depression. These signs usually occur about three weeks after infection, although sometimes the organism can lay dormant in the body for up to three years before signs occur.



The pulmonary form is limited to the lungs

In the **disseminated form**, disease spreads to other parts of the body. The bones and joints are most often affected leading to reluctance to move, lameness, and swollen, painful joints. Other signs are non-specific and may include lack of appetite, lethargy, or depression, a persistent fever, and weight loss. Infection can occur in the eye causing inflammation and sometimes blindness. In rare cases, the fungus invades the brain, resulting in behavior changes or seizure activity.



Treatment & Prognosis

In most cases, your veterinarian will prescribe an oral anti-fungal medication for your pet. Uncomplicated infections involving only the lungs usually respond well to appropriate anti-fungal therapy. Treatment duration varies based on severity of disease. Animals with Valley Fever that has spread to the bones or the brain or complicated respiratory disease often require prolonged drug treatment, sometimes for life. In the most severe cases, the prognosis is uncertain even with the best care.

Who can get Valley Fever?



Whether you live or vacation in endemic areas, any mammal who spends time where Valley Fever occurs can become infected by breathing in fungal spores. The fungus infects easily through inhalation and can even make healthy people and animals sick.

Symptoms of Valley Fever

- Coughing or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- * Lack of appetite
- Lack of energy
- Lameness
- Depression
- Seizures
- Open sores that do not heal

If your pet has any of these signs, contact your veterinarian right away.

Where is Valley Fever found?

Arizona and California desert communities have the highest concentration of cases.

Experts predict this geographic area will continue to expand due to climate change and the increasing rate of new building construction which can release spores from the soil.



Areas with Valley Fever: AZ, CA, NM, NV, UT, TX, OR, WA Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, CDC 2022

Diagnosis

Your veterinarian will start with a thorough history and physical examination of your pet. They may recommend blood tests including a complete blood count, chemistry panel (to check organ function) and Valley Fever titer test. Additionally, radiographs of the chest and/ or bones may need to be done.

Depending upon your pet's clinical signs, other tests such as ultrasound-guided biopsies or MRI may be recommended. Diagnosing and monitoring Valley Fever cases will often require repeated titer tests and follow up diagnostics.