

# Be Aware of Valley Fever in Pets

## What You Need to Know



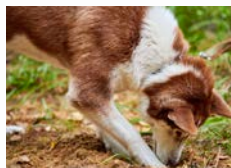
### 1. What is Valley Fever?

- Valley Fever is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil and dirt.
- Many types of animals can get Valley Fever, including dogs, cats, and primates.



### 2. How do animals get Valley Fever?

Animals get Valley Fever the same way people do—by breathing in fungus spores from dirt or dust outside, especially when digging.



### 3. Is Valley Fever contagious between animals (or from animals to people)?

Valley Fever does not spread between animals, and it cannot spread from animals to people.



### 4. What are the symptoms?

Some animals might not get sick at all, while others could get very sick or even die.

#### Symptoms in dogs:

Most common symptom is coughing, but may also include low appetite, limping, enlarged joints, fever, and possibly diarrhea.

#### Symptoms in cats:

May have skin problems (abscesses, draining lesions), fever, low appetite, and weight loss.

### 5. How can I protect my pet from getting Valley Fever?

- Keep pets indoors as much as possible if you live or travel in areas where Valley Fever rates are high such as the Antelope and San Fernando Valley.
- Use a HEPA filter inside your home to help reduce dust that can affect your pets.
- Wet down dusty areas around your property to help protect your pets from breathing in dust.
- Add ground cover on your property to help reduce dust, such as grass, gravel, or mulch.
- When pets are outside, keep them from digging or sniffing around in the dirt or rodent holes.
- Keep pets away from dusty areas with loose dirt such as construction or landscaping sites.



### 6. What to do if I think my pet has Valley Fever?

Talk with your veterinarian to schedule an exam for your pet. Treatment is often effective, and your pet needs to be rechecked often.

