

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.

