

The cost of the diagnosis and care of dogs with Valley Fever (2022)

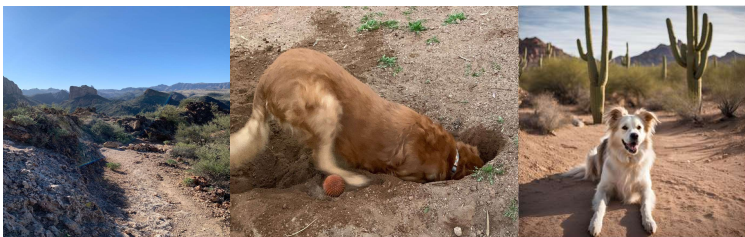
Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis) is a disease caused by dogs inhaling fungal spores from the soils of the Southwestern United States. The disease may remain in the lungs or spread to other tissues in the body.

How many dogs?

In 2022 almost 20 million dogs were at risk of Valley Fever in AZ, CA, NV, NM, TX, and UT

32, 237 of these dogs were diagnosed with Valley Fever

94% of these cases were in AZ dogs



What does it cost?

Used a range of levels of care, including a primary antifungal medication and follow up veterinary care for 1 year for dogs with **uncomplicated lung disease**

The cost of diagnosis and treatment per dog ranged from \$1,800 to \$2,300

>50% of Americans could not pay a surprise \$1,000 bill

In 2022, owners in the endemic states spent \$80,557,952 to \$100,310,676 for the diagnosis and treatment of their dogs with Valley Fever

In 2025 dollars, the costs rise to \$90,176,812 to \$112,288,070



Complicated disease greatly increases costs

- More potent antifungal medications
- Advanced imaging
 - Ultrasound, MRI, CT scan
- Emergency care
- Surgery
 - Limb amputation, eye removal
 - Biopsy
- Treatment that lasts longer than one year

