

# Valley Fever Tips for Veterinarians

This pet recently traveled to southern Arizona. A fungal disease called Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis) is endemic there. The most common manifestation of Valley Fever is a respiratory illness that can include cough, fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and weight loss. Signs of disseminated disease are most commonly lameness (osteomyelitis) but can include seizures, uveitis/blindness, swollen lymph nodes, or signs related to involvement of almost any organ. Valley Fever may need to be considered as a differential for any unusual or unresponsive illness this pet has.

## Diagnosis:

- ◆ Travel history
- ◆ Physical examination
- ◆ Serum chemistries and CBC
- ◆ Serology
- ◆ Radiographs
- ◆ Advanced imaging or site biopsies relevant to the pet's clinical signs

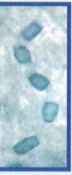


For additional information on diagnosis and treatment of Valley Fever:

- The Valley Fever Center for Excellence at [www.vfce.arizona.edu](http://www.vfce.arizona.edu)



# Valley Fever Tips for Visitors with Pets



Valley Fever is a local fungal infection that is acquired by inhaling spores from the soil. It may cause a respiratory illness or disseminated disease, like bone lesions.

The most common symptom is

- ◆ coughing

Other symptoms include

- ◆ Lack of appetite
- ◆ Lethargy
- ◆ Weight loss
- ◆ Fever
- ◆ Lameness

Treatment is generally with oral antifungal medication administered for months.

Monitoring of progress involves veterinary rechecks of your dog's health, blood tests, and sometimes x-rays.

If your dog is known or suspected to have Valley Fever after you return home, you and your vet can get more information by contacting your vet in Arizona or [vfce.arizona.edu](http://vfce.arizona.edu).

