



Valley Fever Tips



For Pet Owners

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.



For Veterinarians

A 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 contact The Valley Fever Center for Excellence at www.vfce.arizona.edu



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