

## CHIEF SOLANO KENNEL CLUB

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[www.ChiefSolanoKennelClub.org](http://www.ChiefSolanoKennelClub.org)



CSKC

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# Smoke Signals

EDITOR: LORI ESPINOSA



## CSKC Show—2012

CSKC held its 51st and 52nd Annual All-Breed show in April of 2012 and it was a great success. CSKC owes a great thank you to the Show Coordinator Dena Fennel for another outstanding job. The show committee was one of the largest we have had in recent years with many new members participating and learning about the show world. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and next year will be even better!



# Canine Valley Fever



Canine Valley Fever, or better known as, Coccidioidomycosis (bless you!).

## What is Valley Fever?

Valley fever is a fungal infection contracted by inhaling soil-dwelling spores. Both humans and animals can contract the disease. Symptoms can be flu-like such as fatigue, fever, cough and headaches. The symptoms go away in time and they never know they had a potentially deadly disease. While in a small percentage the illness is more serious and potentially lethal causing severe lung disease, extreme joint pain and death.

## How is Valley Fever contracted?

The infection is caused by the fungus *Coccidioides* which grows in certain soils, living up to 12 inches deep in the soil. These fungal spores become airborne when the soil is disturbed. It can then be contracted by inhaling these airborne spores. Once within the lung the spore morphs into a larger, multi-cellular structure called a spherule. The spherule grows and bursts like a seed pod, releasing tiny endospores which develop into more spherules. Please note: **A person with Valley Fever cannot infect another person or animal and a dog with Valley Fever cannot infect another dog or person.**

## Where is Valley Fever?

The hot spots that dogs (and humans) primarily contract Valley Fever are in the following areas: the low desert regions of Arizona, New Mexico, southwestern Texas, the San Joaquin Valley in

California and the California central desert area. The number of cases is on the rise in the central valley.

## What does this have to do with my dog?

Dogs are known to dig and to stick their noses right into the dirt, they have potential to breathe in many spores at a time. Many dogs become infected with VF, but do not become visibly ill. Only a mild respiratory inflammation occurs and tapers off as the dogs' defense mechanisms wall off the organisms. However in severe cases, the disease can spread throughout the lungs and invade other organs with the fungal infection. The disease can jump into other organs or even the bones can become infected with VF. In cases such as this Valley Fever is a sneaky killer and aggressive action is needed or death is inevitable.

## What symptoms will my dog show if infected?

Some or all of these symptoms may be present in early stages of Canine Valley Fever:

- **Coughing**
- **Fever**
- **Weight Loss**
- **Lack of appetite**
- **Lack of energy**
- **Depression**

**When the infection spreads outside the lungs, it causes disseminated disease. Symptoms of disseminated disease may include:**

- **Severe lethargy**
- **More severe cough or respiratory issues**

- Eye inflammation with pain
- Unexpected heart failure in a young dog
- Fluid buildup in the stomach and chest
- Lameness or swelling of limbs
- Back or neck pain, with or without weakness/paralysis.
- Seizures and other manifestations of brain swelling.

## Is there treatment?

If your dog is ill enough to show suspected symptoms of Canine VF you should seek the care of your veterinarian immediately. The same anti-inflammatory medication can be given to your dog that humans take for VF. The 3 most common are: Fluconazole (Diflucan), Ketoconazole (Nizoral) and Itraconazole (Sporanox). They all can have side effects and risk associated with their use. More severe cases many need intravenous drugs such as Amphotericin B (brand name s Albelcet, Ambisome). These also have potential serious side effects including kidney damage.

Please note, this information is general in nature and intended to be substituted for professional care. If you have any questions please refer to your veterinarian.

Experts taken from the article *Canine Valley Fever* by Chrissy Davis.



# Legal Updates

Join us in supporting responsible breeders and giving the American public access to acquiring happy, healthy puppies. The American Kennel Club has created the [Join With the AKC to Protect Responsible Small Breeders](#) petition in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) new proposed regulations which would create harsh and unintended consequences for responsible small and hobby breeders in this country.

Under the proposed regulations, breeders or others who sell a puppy sight unseen, by any means including online, by mail or by telephone, would now be regulated in accordance with USDA standards, if you own more than four "breeding females" of any of the listed species, including dogs and cats. The effect of these proposed regulations would be to take away the public's opportunity to obtain puppies from those breeders, who in many cases have dedicated their lives to breeding for health, breed type and temperament.

Please join us by signing the [Join With the AKC to Protect Responsible Small Breeders](#) petition before July 16 when the public comment period to the Animal Care Division of the USDA's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service ends. The petition, along with AKC's comments on the proposed rule change, will be sent to the USDA.

## How to Sign:

Visit [www.akc.org/petition](http://www.akc.org/petition) and click "Sign Here Now!"

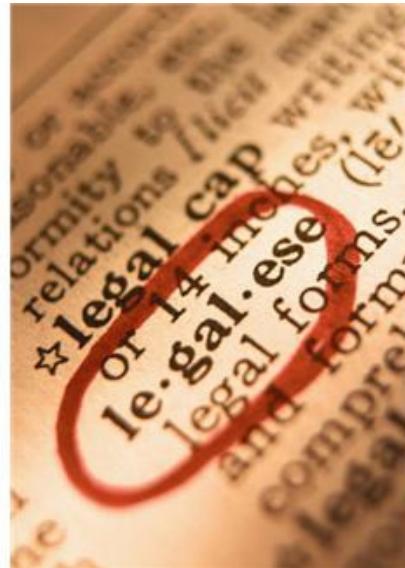
1. Read through [Join With the AKC to Protect Responsible Small Breeders](#) and click the blue box titled "Sign the Petition."
2. Complete the required fields — name, email, city and state. You can also leave a comment if

you wish. We recommend you check the "Signature Display" box so that your name is displayed rather than an anonymous signature.

3. After filling out those fields, click the blue "Sign" button.
4. Once you are finished you'll have the option to share the petition via email, Facebook, Twitter and your blog. Please take a moment to share it with your fellow fanciers, club members, and friends who support responsible breeders.

***Thank you for your support.  
Please forward this email to your fellow  
fanciers, club members and friends who  
support responsible breeders.***

If you have any questions or comments regarding the petition or the proposed rule change, please contact our Government Relations Department at 919-816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org)





## What's Happening...

# Upcoming Events

## Solano County SPCA Doggie Derby October 13, 2012



The SPCA of Solano County's Doggie Derby is coming back to Vacaville on Oct. 13 with more competitions for owners and their pets as well as information booths, demonstrations and vendors, organizers announced Wednesday.

The derby, which raises money for the SPCA, promotes responsible dog ownership and introduces pet owners to activities that will help build a better relationship with their canine companion.

This year's derby runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SPCA of Solano County located at 2200 Peabody Road. The event is free and all well-behaved dogs are welcome.

There will be dog agility demonstrations, Solano County Sheriff's Office demonstrations, obedience demonstrations, a dog wash and competitions that owners can enter with their pets.

For more information about the event, entry forms and rules, go to <http://www.solanospca.com>.

## BOLO

### BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR DOGGY EVENTS!

If you know about any interesting doggy events please email them to Lori Espinosa [mystormyweather@comcast.net](mailto:mystormyweather@comcast.net)

## Barktoberfest Point Isabel—Richmond

### BARKTOBERFEST AT PT. ISABEL: Coming October 2012 (date TBD)

This exciting event always brings out the creativity in dog lovers. We've seen some amazing, unusual, and just plain silly costumes in the past. Bring your camera and join us for a short doggy costume parade, followed by a costume contest featuring great prizes from local businesses such as Alpha Pet Supply and Catahoula Coffee. Meet at the field north of Mudpuppy's. Barktoberfest is free and open to all park visitors. What is your dog going to be for Barktoberfest?



*PIDO's popular Halloween event was a huge success in 2010 and 2011. Thanks to Alpha Pet Supply, Catahoula Coffee, Andronico's, The Bark, and Safe Hands Pet Care for donating prizes and goody bags.*

# Common Toxins for Dogs—What to do if your dog ingests them!

## \*Alcoholic beverages \*

It is often sweet – attracting dogs and cats, but can cause serious and fatal intoxication. Don't ever offer this to your pets. Here are some of the signs and side effects:

- Incoordination/ataxia
- Excitement
- Depression
- Excessive urination
- Breathing rate is slowed
- Cardiac arrest and death

## \*Avocado \*

Avocado leaves, fruit, seeds and bark contain a toxic principle known as Persin. The Guatemalan variety is most toxic – but all have toxic potential. They cause vomiting/diarrhea – primarily gastrointestinal distress.

## \*Chocolate (all forms)\*

Chocolate contains theobromine, a compound that is a cardiac stimulant and a diuretic.

### Signs:

- Initial excitation.
- Increased drinking and urinating.
- Vomiting and Diarrhea.
- Theobromine causes an increased heart rate and arrhythmia –
- Seizures can then be seen.
- Death is then possible.

**ACTION PLAN:** Induce vomiting, give activated charcoal, and go to the Vet if depression and seizures begin. Baker's chocolate and high cocoa content chocolate is the most toxic; the toxic dose is 2 baking squares for a 10lb dog. Regular chocolate bars have little real chocolate and are seldom toxic.

## \*Coffee (all forms) \*

Coffee contains dangerous components called xanthines, which cause nervous system or urinary system damage and heart muscle stimulation.

## \*Fatty Foods\*

The primary concern here is severe gastrointestinal upset- and in some cases Pancreatitis. This can be fatal in some pets- and it is ALMOST always triggered by a High-Fat Meal, such as gravy or bacon.

## \*Macadamia Nuts \*

Macadamia nuts contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and

muscles of dogs. This has lead to paralysis. A small number of nuts and even the butter can cause this.

## \*Moldy or Spoiled Foods \*

Many molds contain a type of toxin called an Aflatoxin. This is thought to be a common cause of "compost toxicity". Signs include GI (Vomiting/ Diarrhea), muscle tremors, in-coordination, elevated temperature, excessive salivation, and liver damage. Avoid feeding ANYTHING moldy to your dog or cat.

## \*Onions, onion powder \*

Onions contain the toxic ingredient thiosulphate. Pets affected by onion toxicity will develop anemia. 1 Onion can cause this. Fortunately ALL dogs recover once they are stopped from ingesting onions.

## \*Raisins and Grapes \*

As few as 6 grapes and raisins have caused acute kidney failure in some dogs. The toxic ingredient is not yet known. There is no treatment. AVOID feeding ANY grapes or raisins to your dogs.

## \*Yeast Dough \*

The yeast dough/uncooked bread dough will rise in your pet's stomach causing severe gastrointestinal distress (vomiting/diarrhea), bloating, and signs of alcohol toxicity.

## \*Xylitol\*

Xylitol is a artificial sweeter found in "SUGAR FREE" Products, such as gum, candy etc. Signs relate to a sudden drop in glucose (blood sugar), in-coordination, collapse and seizures. Avoid feeding any gum/candy to your pets.

## \*Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Peaches and Plums.\*

Ingestion of large amounts of stems, seeds and leaves of these fruits can be toxic. They contain a cyanide type compound and signs of toxicity include apprehension, dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, hyperventilation and shock.

\*Note – it's the seeds and stems that contain the toxic component, not the fruit itself.

## \*Potato peelings and green looking potatoes\*

Potatoes and other Solanum species, including the tomato, are members of

the nightshade family of plants. These plants contain solanine and other toxic alkaloids which, if eaten in large enough amounts, can produce drooling, severe gastrointestinal upset, including vomiting and diarrhea, loss of appetite, drowsiness, central nervous system depression, confusion, behavioral changes, weakness, dilated pupils and slowed heart rate.

## \*Nutmeg\*

High levels of nutmeg can be toxic, even fatal. The toxic component is unknown. Signs of toxicity include tremors, seizures, nervous system abnormalities or death.

## \*Tomato leaves & stems (green parts)\*

The green parts of the tomato plant are considered toxic because they contain solanine, which has the potential to produce significant gastrointestinal and central nervous system effects.

## WHAT to do IF your pet has eaten any of these toxic foods:

GO TO YOUR VETERINARIAN! If your pet is showing signs of ingesting a poison, it is important that your veterinarian examines her and treated appropriately. Some toxins can progress and lead to severe seizures. If you suspect anti-freeze poisoning, it must be treated within 4-6 hours, before irreversible kidney damage occurs.

## PURGE THE POISON

In most cases of poisoning, getting your pet to vomit is the most important thing that you can do. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING if something caustic has been consumed (such as drain cleaner or bleach). To induce vomiting, give hydrogen peroxide at 1 teaspoon per 10 lbs of body weight. If your pet doesn't vomit in 10 minutes, repeat again. NEVER do more than 2 treatments of peroxide. You can also try salt: dilute 1 teaspoon of salt in a tablespoon of water per every 10lbs of body weight.

**\*DELAY ABSORPTION.\*** Activated charcoal is readily available at most pharmacies. It delays absorption of any toxin by binding to the toxic compound in the stomach. The easiest way is to give the capsule form. For those garbage-eating dogs (such as my own dog) it is a good idea to have hydrogen peroxide and activated charcoal always on hand.



## Member Updates:

If you have updated contact info please  
contact the Secretary Susan Sakala  
[windala@aol.com](mailto:windala@aol.com)



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