



4TH EDITION



# PET RESOURCE DIRECTORY



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# Arizona Pet Resource Directory

*Published by the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association*



Content reflects the current veterinary members of the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association (AzVMA) as of June 2023.

The information contained in this directory is intended only as a guide.  
*Please see your veterinarian for medical advice.*

**The AzVMA would like to thank the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)  
for its contributions of editorial content.**

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# WELCOME

## Arizona Pet Owners

The Arizona Veterinary Medical Association (AzVMA) is providing you, the pet owner, with this valuable guide to help you find the resources needed to keep your beloved pet healthy. You know your pet better than anyone else, and your veterinarian knows how to keep your pet healthy better than anyone else. We encourage you to establish a relationship with your veterinarian and their staff, and to work as a team to keep your pet happy and help them live a longer life.

Being a well-informed participant in your pet's care means educating yourself, understanding the importance of preventive care, and knowing when to consult your veterinarian and how to work with the veterinary team. It also means understanding the full range of questions your veterinarian can help with - not just caring for sick and injured animals, but advising you on nutrition, behavior, your pet's weight and exercise, and much more.



- *AzVMA Staff + Board*

## RESPONSIBLE Pet Ownership



Owning a pet is a privilege that brings us great rewards. Because our pets can't speak for themselves, we each take on a responsibility as owners to advocate for them and provide the support and resources they need to live healthy, happy lives. Providing that support begins even before we bring a pet home.

Keeping animals healthy requires teamwork. As an owner, you're an important part of that team. When you know something is wrong with your animal, you rely on your veterinarian to help, and your veterinarian in turn works as part of a larger team of veterinary professionals.

### **AzVMA Pet Care Resources**

For educational resources on proper pet care and pet health concerns, scan the QR code below. You can be an active participant in your pet's healthcare!



or, visit [azvma.org/pets](http://azvma.org/pets)



## A Letter from the AzVMA President

We at the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association share a deep love and passion for our pets at home and realize how daunting a task it can be to take on the responsibility of pet ownership. Keeping a pet healthy is a life long commitment and we recognize that you may have a lot of questions on how best to serve in this role, so that both you and your pet are able to benefit from a long and happy relationship.

The AVMA separates responsible pet ownership into six simple categories: *Commit, Invest, Obey, Identify, Limit, and Prepare.*

1. **Commit** means to accept the life changes that come with pet ownership and to choose a pet that suits your home and lifestyle.
2. **Invest** means to recognize the that pet ownership requires both a financial investment and time investment. This includes budgeting for both preventative care and potential emergencies.
3. **Obey** means to follow all local ordinances when it comes to pet ownership including licensing, leash requirements, noise ordinances, and cleaning up after them.
4. **Identify** means to properly identify your pet with tags, microchips, and registration.
5. **Limit** means to do your part in helping with the nation's pet overpopulation problem, and limiting reproduction through spay/neuter or managed breeding.
6. **Prepare** means to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, or times where you may need help with your pet care.

The AzVMA wants to assist you in understanding all of these aspects of responsible pet ownership, and wants to help provide you with resources to do so. That is why we developed the Pet Resource Directory. Our goal is to give pet owners a resource of information on where to find veterinary care, emergency care, boarding facilities, vaccination and wellness recommendations, desert dangers, and much more.

### **Kaylee Yoshimoto, DVM**

President, Arizona Veterinary Medical Association (2022-2023)

Happy Valley Animal Hospital

Phoenix, AZ



## My Pet's Information

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ M / F

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color/markings: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Address: \_\_\_\_\_

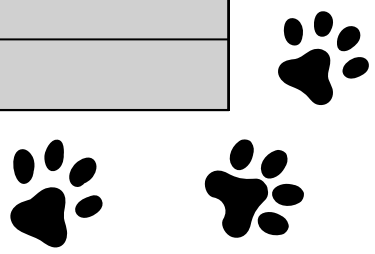
Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Diet: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Health Information

Immunizations			Allergies
Date	Description	Next Due	



# IMPORTANT

## Pet Resource Numbers

### **ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center** **1-888-426-4435**

If your pet ingests something you suspect is poisonous, you can call this 24-hr service. There is a fee for the consultation.

### **Emergency Disaster Hotline** **1-800-227-4645**

Sponsored by the American Humane Association, this number is the first place to call in the event of an earthquake or other disaster. They will provide information on what to do and where to go, and provide support & relief information.

### **Animal & Pet Travel Resources** **1-800-545-USDA (8732)**

Before traveling with your pet by air, call this number with all of your questions about transporting your pet, what you'll need to provide or bring with you, etc.

### **National Pet Recovery Hotline** **1-800-984-8638**

This 24-hr service will help you locate your pet. There is a fee for this service.



### **Animal Legal Hotline** **1-800-555-6517**

Animal Legal Defense Fund will help with landlord-tenant issues, neglect & abuse.

### **Spay Helpline** **1-800-248-SPAY (7729)**

SPAY USA provides free or low cost services to all. With locations at over 950 programs and clinics nationwide, they eliminate finances as an excuse for not spaying or neutering your pets.

### **Pet Loss Support Hotline** **1-888-478-7574**

Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine provides a source of emotional support for those who are grieving the loss of a pet or simply anticipating it. This free service is funded by the Iams Company.

### **Stolen Pet Hotline Information** **1-800-STOLEN-PET (786536-738)**

In the event that your pet is stolen, the Stolen Pet Hotline will assist you in the best routes to locate and recover your pet.





# EMERGENCY

## Animal Clinics & Hospitals

### Phoenix (cont'd)

**Pet Urgent Care**  
602-687-7761

**Phoenix Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center**  
602-765-3700

**VetMED Emergency & Specialty Veterinary Hospital**  
602-697-4694

### Prescott

**Yavapai Emergency Animal Hospital**  
928-460-7282

### Scottsdale

**Animal Medical & Surgical Center**  
480-502-4400

**BluePearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital**  
480-949-8001

**VCA McCormick Ranch Animal Hospital & Emergency Center**  
480-948-3873

### Tucson

**Pima Pet Clinic/Animal Emergency Services**  
520-327-5624

**Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center**  
520-888-3177

**VCA Valley Animal Hospital & Emergency Center**  
520-748-0331

### Avondale

**BluePearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital**  
623-385-4555

### Chandler

**1st Pet Veterinary Centers**  
480-732-0018

### Gilbert

**Arizona Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Center**  
497-497-0222

### Mesa

**1st Pet Veterinary Centers**  
480-924-1123

**VCA Animal Referral & Emergency Center of Arizona**  
480-898-0001

### Peoria

**BluePearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital**  
623-974-1520

### Phoenix

**1st Pet Veterinary Centers**  
623-849-0700

**BluePearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital**  
602-995-3757



VCA Animal Referral and  
Emergency Center of Arizona

**480-898-0001**  
1648 N COUNTRY CLUB DR  
MESA, AZ 85201  
VCAareca.com



# For All Your Patient's Needs!

## 24-Hour Emergency & Critical Care Medicine

Jessica Heuss, DVM, DACVECC

Alexis McLaine, DVM, MPH, DACVECC

Brian A. Sessink, DVM

Andrew Lenius, DVM

Kristi Burns, DVM

Ben Ulrich, DVM

Whitney Walker, DVM

- Advanced Diagnostics
- Blood and Plasma Transfusions
- Emergency Endoscopy
- Emergency Surgery
- Emergency Triage
- Intensive Care
- Overnight Monitoring
- Oxygen Therapy
- Post Operative monitoring and analgesic
- Nutritional Support
- Infectious Disease
- Mechanical Ventilation
- Toxicity Treatment

## Diagnostic Imaging

- CT Examinations
- Interventional Radiology
- Diagnostic Ultrasonography
- Fluoroscopy
- Diagnostic Radiology

## Internal Medicine

Melissa Moyer, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)

Kirstin Keany, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)

Allie Wingert, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)

- Endoscopy
- Balloon Dilation of Esophageal & Rectal Strictures
- Bone Marrow Biopsies/Aspirates
- Joint Fluid Collection
- Lymph Node Aspirates
- Gastrostomy & Esophagostomy tubes
- Nephrology/Urology
- Infectious Diseases
- Chronic Gastrointestinal Disease
- Endocrinology
- Diabetes Management
- Immune-Mediated Diseases
- Respiratory Diseases

## Oncology

Mark Jeon, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

- Diagnosis of cancer, staging, & active surveillance
- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Palliative care options
- Pain management
- Collaborations with VCA ARECA Specialists
- Collaboration with regional veterinary radiation oncology facilities
- Partnership with primary care veterinarians

## Neurology

Tessa Meland, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

- Advanced Imaging Diagnostics
- Cerebrospinal fluid collection/analysis
- Infectious disease testing
- Steroid epidurals
- Neuromedical Disorder Treatments
- Neurosurgical procedures
- BAER Testing

## Surgery

Christopher Monarski, DVM, DACVS-SA

Elizabeth Stewart, DVM, MS, DACVS-SA

Bianca Alva, DVM -Practice Limited to Surgery

Tiffany Johnson, DVM -Practice Limited to Surgery

Amy Sheil, DVM (Surgical Resident)

- Minimally Invasive Procedures
- Oncologic Surgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Stem Cell Therapy
- Skin and Reconstructive Surgery
- Abdominal and Thoracic Surgery

## Medical Director

Christopher Monarski, DVM, DACVS-SA

## Hospital Director

Katherine Vasquez, CVT

## Referral Director

Stephani Rhodes

# FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

## **Q: What is a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)?**

A: VCPR exists when your veterinarian has examined your pet and knows your pet well enough to be able to diagnose and treat any medical conditions your animal develops. Your part of the VCPR is allowing your veterinarian to take responsibility for making clinical judgments about your pet's health, asking questions to make sure you understand, and following your veterinarian's instructions. Your veterinarian's part of the VCPR involves making those judgments; accepting the responsibility for providing your pet with medical care; keeping a written record of your pet's medical care; advising you about the benefits and risks of different treatment options; providing oversight of treatment, compliance (your follow-through on their recommendations) and outcome; and helping you know how to get emergency care for your pet if the need should arise.

## **Q: Why should I spay or neuter my pet?**

A: In females it protects them from several health problems such as uterine infections, uterine or breast cancer, or complications associated with pregnancy. It also eliminates heat cycles and reduces negative behaviors associated with heat cycles and mating

instinct. Neutering male dogs and cats can have a calming effect. It reduces negative behaviors and aggressiveness associated with the mating instinct. They are less likely to roam in search of a mate reducing their chances of injury or getting lost.

## **Q: Why should I microchip my pet?**

A: Despite your best efforts, accidents can happen. Someone leaves a door ajar, an intrepid pooch digs under a fence, and your best intentions go awry: your pet escapes and gets lost. If they're wearing a collar and identification tag, chances are good that you'll get them back. But what if the collar comes off? To protect their pets, many owners turn to technology, in the form of identification microchips implanted in their pets. Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice, that can be implanted under your pet's skin by many veterinarians and animal shelters; some shelters implant one in all pets they place.

*\*Source: Humane Society of the United States*

## **Q: Does my pet really need an annual examination and vaccinations?**

A: It is in the best interest of your pet to get a routine checkup plus all the recommended vaccines so that your pet may remain healthy and happy. The examination by the veterinarian is particularly important because our pets cannot "tell" us about the early development of a disease or problem which the veterinarian may be able to diagnose. In fact, this may be the least expensive "insurance" you can buy. Early detection of problems and use of preventative care will both protect your pet's health and save you money over the long run. Vaccines are important to prevent disease, pain, suffering, and death. Some pet owners intending to "save" money by skipping vaccinations and/or an exam end up spending far more in treating their pet for a disease which could have been prevented and may be fatal.



**Q: Why does my pet need dental care?**

A: Just like humans, your pet needs dental care too. Your veterinarian can clean, polish, and take X-rays of your pet's teeth; and extract and repair them when necessary for a healthy smile. Your veterinarian can examine your pet's teeth below the gumline where most dental disease occurs and may be hiding. Infected gums and teeth can lead to problems with internal organs and joints. A professional dental examination must be conducted with anesthesia by a licensed veterinarian. Regular veterinary dental care involves removing plaque and tartar, checking for broken or loose teeth, abscesses and infections. Your veterinarian may recommend pre-dental blood work & x-rays that will make sure the liver, kidneys and blood counts are within normal ranges & evaluate the health of the jaw and tooth roots below the gumline.





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🌐 [WWW.ANIMALDENTALAZ.COM](http://www.animaldentalaz.com)

## Time for a Teeth Cleaning!

**Have your pet's teeth checked sooner if you observe any of the following problems:**

- Bad breath
- Broken or loose teeth
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- Teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Pain in or around the mouth
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth

Some pets become irritable when they have dental problems, and any changes in your pet's behavior should prompt a visit to your veterinarian. Always be careful when evaluating your pet's mouth, because an animal in pain may bite.

**Source:** AVMA



## PETS NEED DENTAL CARE TOO!

Pet dental care is an essential part of an overall wellness plan to ensure the quality and longevity of life. Dental disease affects every pet. By the time they are three, pets are likely to have developed some evidence of dental disease that if not addressed, can lead to serious discomfort and long term health issues.



# YOUR PET'S DENTAL CARE



## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN

- Does my pet have any loose or infected teeth?
- Does my pet have gum disease?
- Will you be taking x-rays of my pet's teeth to check for hidden problems?
- Will you be removing the tartar from my pet's teeth?
- Does my pet need any teeth extracted?
- Are there risks associated with the procedure?
- Will my pet require aftercare?

## HOW OFTEN?

It is recommended that your pet be checked annually. Even if it is not exhibiting any outward signs of dental disease, early detection is key to preventing serious oral and physical health issues.

## WHAT?

Regular veterinary dental care involves removing plaque and tartar, checking for broken or loose teeth, abscesses and infections. Your veterinarian may recommend pre-dental blood work & x-rays that will make sure the liver, kidneys and blood counts are within normal ranges & evaluate the health of the jaw and tooth roots below the gumline.

**WHAT WILL THE DENTAL EXAM INCLUDE?**  
When a pet is sedated, dental procedures can be performed without stress and pain. While under anesthesia, the veterinary professional can get accurate x-rays and conduct a thorough inspection below the gumline where most dental disease occurs.

By scheduling routine check-ups, you can help keep your pet's mouth healthy. But, if your pet exhibits any of the following signs, see your veterinarian immediately:

- Bad breath
- Broken or loose teeth
- Reduced appetite
- Refusal to eat
- Pain in or around the mouth
- Swelling around the mouth
- Drooling
- Dropping food from the mouth



# SMALL ANIMAL Clinics & Hospitals

You and your veterinarian make up the all-star team when it comes to keeping your pet healthy. But you're not just a Most Valuable Player on the team, you've got an opportunity to be a MVPO - Most Valuable Pet Owner. How can you do that? Educate yourself on proper pet care and pet health problems by asking questions and finding answers from reliable, trusted sources of information - such as your veterinarian!



## Who are veterinarian diplomates or specialists?

A Diplomate is a veterinarian who obtains board certification in a specialized area through 4-8 years of additional training, including a 3-year residency. This specialized training is overseen by a national organization to ensure high standards. After passing a rigorous examination, the veterinarian earns the title of Diplomate, becoming a specialist in their chosen veterinary field.

## AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool. Search by practice type, services, city/town, postal code, county, name, and company/employer.

- **Example 1:** If you choose SM in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who are small animal veterinarians.
- **Example 2:** If you choose SM in the "Practice Type" field and Glendale in the "City" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who are small animal veterinarians with practices located in Glendale.



# SELECTING a Pet Cat

## **WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT CATS?**

Cats make wonderful companions. Their entertaining antics and affectionate behaviors have endeared them to millions of owners for thousands of years. Easily housetrained and relatively low maintenance, cats make good indoor pets and most will readily adapt to a variety of households.

## **WHAT CHOICES DO YOU HAVE IN CATS?**

Purebred and mixed-breed cats come in a variety of shapes (head, ears, body, and tail), sizes, colors, personalities, and hair coats. Purebred cats have been selectively bred to enhance certain physical and behavioral characteristics that some owners find desirable, while mixed-breed cats have varied characteristics and also make wonderful pets. Veterinarians can provide you with a lot of valuable information even before you acquire your cat, and some veterinarians choose to specialize in feline medicine or providing a feline-friendly clinic environment.

## **WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF CATS?**

Feeding, social interaction, exercise, and play are daily needs that must be met if you want a healthy, happy cat. Some cats have long or thick hair coats that require daily grooming to prevent matting and skin irritation. To reduce the risk of injury and disease, cats should be kept indoors and provided with an enriched environment that includes plenty of opportunities for positive interactions and play. A cat's litter box must be kept very clean, and filled with the litter type they prefer, so that the cat continues to use it. If there are multiple cats within the home, multiple litter boxes should be available in several locations.

## **DOES A CAT FIT INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE?**

Cats can adapt to most types of housing if proper accommodations, food, grooming, and exercise opportunities are provided. To help decide if a cat is the right pet for you, answer the following questions:

- Do you have the time to devote to providing for a cat's needs for care and attention?
- Do you rent or do you own your home? If you rent, does your lease allow you to keep one or more cats?
- Can you adapt your home to allow a cat to express normal behaviors such as exploration, predatory play, and scratching?
- How long is your work day? Do you frequently have obligations after work that would interfere with caring for your kitten or cat?
- Will your new cat get along with your existing pets?
- Do any family members have allergies to pet hair or dander or are likely to be intolerant of normal cat behavior?



**Source:** AVMA

### **SHOULD YOU GET A KITTEN OR AN ADULT CAT?**

Kittens require additional time for litter box training and socialization, as well as more frequent feeding and supervision. If you can't make this commitment, consider the purchasing or adopting an adult cat that is most likely litter trained and will usually adapt well to a new home. Breeders, rescues and shelters should be familiar with every cat they are placing and be able to match you with a cat whose temperament and needs are a good fit for your family.

### **CAN YOU AFFORD A CAT?**

The purchase price for a cat can vary tremendously by breed and source, and will just be your initial expense. Cats need high quality food, proper housing, mental stimulation (e.g., toys, playtime), and regular visits to a veterinarian for preventive care. Other costs may include emergency medical treatment, grooming, boarding, identification, licensing, sterilization (spaying or neutering), and accessories. Today, pet health insurance is readily available and may help you defray unexpected expenses resulting from illness or injury.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A HEALTHY CAT?**

A healthy kitten or cat has clear, bright eyes and a clean, shiny haircoat. It should not appear thin, overly fat, or show signs of illness, such as nasal discharge or diarrhea. When choosing a cat, pick one that is active, inquisitive, and seeks affection and attention from people. Sometimes cats are uncomfortable in noisy or unfamiliar environments, so keep that in mind during your evaluation. An adult cat should allow handling and petting without hissing or scratching. A kitten should be relaxed when picked up and handled. The best age at which to obtain a kitten is when it is between 7 and 9 weeks old. Your veterinarian can also provide information about health conditions and behaviors that may be common in a particular breed you are considering.

### **KITTEN TIPS**

- Seven to nine weeks is considered the ideal time for a kitten to move into a new home.
- Spaying or neutering your new pet is an important part of responsible pet ownership. Talk to your veterinarian about the best time to have your kitten spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted litters.
- Talk to your veterinarian about an appropriate vaccination schedule for your kitten or cat to make sure it is protected from diseases.
- When possible, meet the kitten's parents — their physical and behavioral characteristics may provide a clue as to how your kitten will be as an adult.
- If you already have a pet (or more than one pet) and plan to get a cat, remember that your other pets may be less enthusiastic about your new addition than you are. Ask your veterinarian about the best ways to introduce your pet to its new animal family.
- String is NOT a good toy for cats. If a cat eats string (or ribbon), it can develop life-threatening intestinal problems. There are many safe toy alternatives available at pet stores.

**Source:** AVMA

# BOARDING Facilities

The reservations are made, the bags are packed, and you're ready for your trip. If you're not taking your animal(s) with you, who's in charge of healthcare decisions while you're away? Cell phones and computers have made it much easier to stay in touch and be contacted, but what if you can't be reached in case of an emergency?



Regardless of whether you're leaving your animal in the care of family or friends, a veterinary hospital, boarding kennel or stable, you should authorize someone you trust to act on your behalf in case of an emergency if you can't be reached. Make sure that person is aware of your wishes regarding emergency treatment; this includes the potentially uncomfortable topic of financial limits, if there are any. Provide that person with all possible methods of contacting you in case of an emergency, including contact information for your traveling companions as appropriate, as well as an assurance of your trust that they can make decisions if you cannot be reached.

**Source:** AVMA

## **AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Boarding**

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool.

- **Example 1:** If you choose Boarding in the "Services" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer boarding services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and Boarding in the "Services" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer boarding services.





# ADOPTING a shelter pet

Adopting a shelter pet offers numerous benefits. First and foremost, it provides a loving home to a deserving animal in need, giving them a second chance at a happy life. Shelter pets are often already spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and may even be trained, saving you time and money on initial care.

Additionally, adopting from a shelter supports the important work of rescue organizations and helps reduce the number of homeless animals. Beyond the tangible advantages, shelter pets can bring immense joy, companionship, and a unique bond to their adoptive families, making it a rewarding choice for both pet and owner.

## Did You Know?

Many people shy away from adopting a dog because they have their heart set on a particular breed and haven't been able to find one for adoption at a local animal shelter or rescue group, but did you know that there are rescue groups for specific breeds? These volunteer-run networks are easy to find online and often have regional chapters.

**Source:** ASPCA



# ANIMAL Shelters & Rescues

## **Casa Grande**

**Pinal County Animal Control**  
520-509-3555

## **Chandler**

**AAWL Adoption Center**  
602-781-3906

## **Chino Valley**

**Chino Valley Animal Shelter**  
928-636-4223 x7

## **Cottonwood**

**Verde Valley Humane Society**  
928-634-7387

## **Flagstaff**

**Coconino Humane Society**  
928-526-1076

## **Kingman**

**Humane Society of Mohave County**  
928-692-5226

## **Lake Havasu City**

**Western Arizona Humane Society**  
928-855-5083

## **Mesa**

**Maricopa County Animal Care and Control**  
602-506-7387

## **Phoenix**

**Arizona Animal Welfare League & SPCA**  
602-273-6852

**Arizona Humane Society - Nina Mason**  
602-997-7586



## **Phoenix (cont'd)**

**Arizona Humane Society - Sunnyslope**  
602-997-7585

**Maricopa County Animal Care and Control**  
602-506-7387

## **Prescott**

**Yavapai Humane Society**  
928-445-2666

## **Sedona**

**Humane Society of Sedona**  
928-282-4679

## **Tucson**

**Humane Society of Southern Arizona**  
520-327-6088

**Pima Animal Care Center**  
520-724-5900

## **Wickenburg**

**Humane Society of Wickenburg**  
928-684-8801

# Tag Your Wag!

Every pet owner's nightmare is losing their beloved pet. By having your dog licensed, it will be easier and faster to get them back home with you!

## Why it's important:

- Your dog will be identified much quicker to help us reunite you.
- It can save you money on the first night of boarding charges if your pet ends up at the shelter.
- Your dog will get a free ride home if they are picked up at large by an MCACC Animal Services Officer.
- Licensing your dog is lifesaving. Collected fees help support the daily care of all our shelter animals.

## Licensing fees:

- Spayed/neutered dogs: \$22
- Unaltered/intact dogs: \$55
- Senior discounted rate for owners 65 years of age or older: \$10 for each spayed/neutered dog



**Want to learn more  
about licensing?**

**[tagyourwag.com](http://tagyourwag.com)**

MARICOPA COUNTY  
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL



# GROOMING Facilities

Grooming services for pets play a crucial role in maintaining their health and well-being. These services encompass essential tasks like bathing, brushing, nail trimming, and fur trimming, which not only keep pets looking their best but also prevent issues like matting and skin problems. Professional groomers are skilled in handling various breeds and coat types, ensuring a safe and comfortable experience for the animals.



Regular grooming appointments also provide an opportunity for early detection of health concerns, making it a holistic approach to pet care that promotes both physical and emotional wellness.

## AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Grooming

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool.

- **Example 1:** If you choose Grooming in the "Services" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer grooming services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and Grooming in the "Services" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer grooming services.





# Top 10 Pet Poisons



**Over-the-Counter Prescriptions**

Ibuprofen, acetaminophen, joint rubs and herbal supplements all fall within this category.



**Household Products**

Home improvement products that can be exposed to pets include potential toxins such as paint, adhesives or spackle.



**Human Prescription Medications**

Cardiac, ADHD, thyroid, and antidepressant medications make up a significant amount of these cases.



**Rodenticide**

Mouse and rat baits can cause bleeding, kidney failure, seizures or even death.



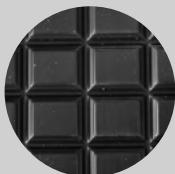
**Food**

Xylitol, grapes, raisins, onions, garlic and protein bars are all foods you should keep out of reach from your pets.



**Plants**

Some common plants that can be poisonous to pets are oleander, lilies, tulips, cyclamen, azaleas & daffodils.



**Chocolate**

There is a toxic component (theobromine) to chocolate that humans can metabolize, however pets process this much slower building up toxic levels.



**Insecticide**

Use of safer products to use around pets as directed include acetamiprid, imidacloprid & lufenuron.



**Veterinary Products**

Chewable medications can be tasty, and if they are intrigued enough they could eat the entire container.



**Garden Products**

Many pets will find fertilizers intriguing. To avoid contact with these products keep your pets inside while working on your lawn & garden.

# MOBILE Veterinary Services

Mobile veterinary services bring convenience and personalized care directly to pet owners' doorsteps. These services offer a wide range of veterinary care, including routine check-ups, vaccinations, diagnostics, and even minor surgical procedures, all within the comfort of the pet's home.



Mobile veterinarians cater to the needs of busy or homebound pet owners, reduce the stress of travel for pets, and can be particularly beneficial for animals with anxiety or mobility issues.

With the added advantage of personalized attention, mobile veterinary services contribute to the overall well-being of pets and the peace of mind of their owners.

## AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Mobile

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool.

- **Example 1:** If you choose MOB in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer mobile veterinary services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and MOB in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer mobile veterinary services.





# END-OF-LIFE Care for your Pet

End-of-life care for pets focuses on providing the best quality of life possible for a pet with a terminal disease or condition until the pet dies or is euthanized. End-of-life care also helps you as a pet owner by providing you time to make decisions and adjust to the coming loss of your companion. The care is tailored to the needs of both you and your pet.

A veterinary end-of-life care service typically includes on-call availability of the veterinarian to provide urgent care as needed; extended appointments including counseling and support for decision-making; in-home care; medications and other therapies administered to relieve discomfort, stress and pain; euthanasia options tailored to your and your pet's needs (which may include in-home euthanasia); and pet loss support/grief counseling.

If your regular veterinary team does not offer a particular service in which you are interested (such as in-home euthanasia), they likely can refer you to a colleague who does offer the service. Don't hesitate to ask about further options.



**Gentle Journey**  
IN-HOME PET EUTHANASIA  
& HOSPICE CARE SERVICE

**Do you ever wonder if your pet is in more pain than you think?**

**Do you ever question if your pet is still enjoying life?**

**NEW 90-Minute Video Series that will help you understand your pet's pain/quality of life.**

**There is a clear link between more education and less suffering for pets.**

**Visit [GentleJourney.com/Education](http://GentleJourney.com/Education)**

## When does a pet become a "senior"?

**The short answer:** it varies.

Cats are generally considered "senior" after 10 years of age. However, dogs don't have a universal age of seniority because of their wider variety in size. Larger breed dogs tend to have shorter life spans than smaller breeds. For this and other reasons, experts suggest that dogs be considered "senior" when they reach the last 25 percent of the estimated life span for their breed. On average, using data from the American Kennel Club, this translates to the following ages:

- **Small or toy breeds** (less than 20 pounds): 8 to 11 years
- **Medium-sized breeds** (20 to 50 pounds): 8 to 10 years
- **Large breeds** (50 to 90 pounds): 8 to 9 years
- **Giant breeds** (more than 90 pounds): 6 to 7 years

**Source:** AVMA

# AT-HOME Euthanasia Services

## **Arivaca**

**Arivaca Animal Clinic**  
520-398-2833

## **Buckeye**

**Durango Equine Veterinary Clinic**  
623-386-2928

## **Chino Valley**

**Circle L Animal Hospital**  
928-636-4421

## **Northwest Veterinary**

928-636-0712

## **Coolidge**

**Coolidge Veterinary Hospital**  
520-723-5500

## **Flagstaff**

**Aspen Veterinary Clinic PC**  
928-526-2423

## **Continental Animal Wellness Center**

928-522-6008

## **Gilbert**

**Herd Health Management LP**  
480-899-5088

## **Banfield Pet Hospital-Gilbert**

520-827-4407

## **Gold Canyon**

**Dr. Adair's Mobile Veterinary Care**  
480-531-3861

## **Hereford**

**Cruisin Vet, Happy Pet**  
520-678-6628

## **Higley**

**AZ Compassionate Veterinary Home Care**  
480-331-7559

## **Small Animal Housecalls**

602-931-5869

## **Mesa**

**Banfield Pet Hospital-Mesa Stapley**  
480-632-2391

## **Luna Veterinary Care**

702-707-5027

## **Homestead Animal Clinic**

480-649-6300

## **Soul Puppy Holistic Healing**

480-494-6034



# AT-HOME Euthanasia Services

## **Mesa (cont'd)**

**Serenity In Home Pet Euthanasia**  
480-684-0731

## **Phoenix**

**Angel Veterinary Services**  
602-819-0655

**Happy Endings In-Home Pet Euthanasia**  
480-225-3939

**Lap of Love Services, LLC**  
602-996-4764

**Paradise Point Animal Hospital**  
602-550-1148

**Valet Vet Mobile Veterinary Services PLLC**  
623-738-2738

## **Prescott**

**Prescott Animal Hospital**  
928-445-2190

**Yavapai Emergency Animal Hospital**  
928-460-7282

## **Scottsdale**

**The Scottsdale Veterinary Clinic**  
480-945-8484

**Gentle Journey**  
602-332-7757

**KC Animal Hospital & Pet Resort**  
480-451-8375

**Pets At Rest AZ**  
480-584-1874



## **Sedona**

**Oak Creek Small Animal Clinic**  
928-282-1195

## **Sonoita**

**Lion and Lamb Veterinary Services**  
619-820-6568

## **Sun City**

**Fetch a Vet**  
623-910-2709

## **Tucson**

**Lap of Love Services, LLC**  
520-462-5007

**Desert Paws Mobile Veterinary Care**  
520-833-2134

**Kindred Spirits Pet Services**  
520-367-5222

**Arizona Veterinary Ambulance**  
520-345-6796

## **Yuma**

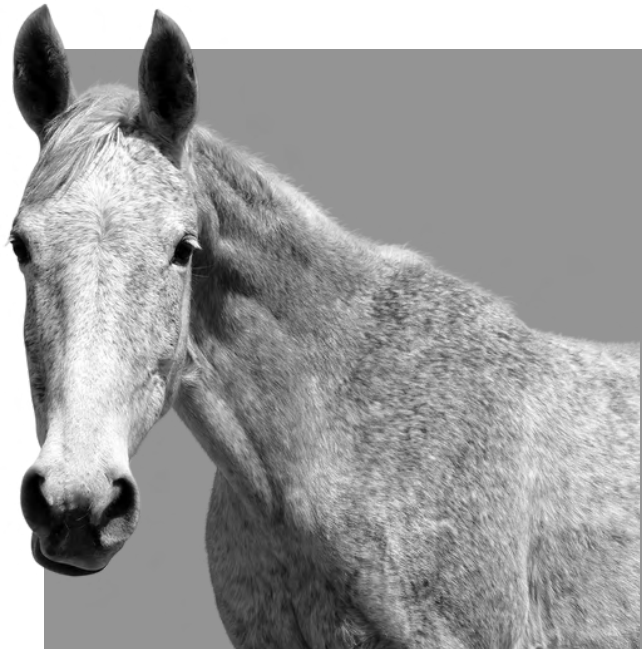
**Picacho Animal Care**  
928-785-7887

# EQUINE

## Clinics & Hospitals

Owning a pet horse is a deeply rewarding and unique experience. These majestic animals offer companionship, trust, and a strong bond with their owners. Caring for a horse involves daily tasks like feeding, grooming, exercise, and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Riding and training your horse can be a fulfilling hobby or sport,

fostering a deep connection between rider and steed. However, horse ownership also demands time, resources, and proper facilities for their well-being.



With the right commitment and dedication, having a pet horse can provide years of joy, adventure, and a profound connection with nature.

### AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Equine

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](https://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the

**Find a Veterinarian** tool.

- **Example 1:** If you choose EQU in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer equine veterinary services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and EQU in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer equine veterinary services.



# EQUINE Pet Resources

## American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) was founded in 1954 by a group of 11 charter members who saw that together they could direct the focus of equine veterinary medicine. Today, the AAEP, represents an educated group of men and women who cover a broad range of equine disciplines, breeds and associations.

<https://aaep.org>



## United Horse Coalition

The United Horse Coalition is a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to educate the horse industry about the issues facing horses At-Risk, or in transition. They seek to provide information for existing and prospective owners, breeders, sellers, and horse organizations regarding the long-term responsibilities of owning and caring for horses, as well as focusing on the opportunities available for these horses.

<https://unitedhorsecoalition.org>

## American Horse Council Microchip Look-Up

The American Horse Council (AHC) is the only national association exclusively representing every segment of the equine industry in Washington, DC. They are deeply committed to serving the needs of our members and fulfilling our mission of advocating for the equine industry. The American Horse Council works daily to advocate for the social, economic and legislative interests of the United States equine industry.

<https://www.horsemicrochiplookup.com>

## It's important that you know your horse's vital signs

- **Capillary refill time:** If you press your finger firmly against the horse's gums, the point of pressure should return to a pink color within one to two seconds.
- **Intestinal sounds:** Gurgling, gas-like growls, tinkling sounds and occasional roars are normal. No intestinal sounds or decreased intestinal sounds can be a sign of colic.

Vital signs are early indications of a problem. If the horse is excited or it's a hot/humid day, heart and respiration rates can be slightly elevated:

- **Heart rate:** 28-44 beats per minute depending on the horse's size.
- **Respiration:** 10-24 breaths per minute.
- **Mucous membranes:** The horse's gums should be moist and a healthy pink.

**Source:** American Association of Horse Practitioners

# RUMINANT Clinics & Hospitals

Owning a ruminant pet, such as a goat or sheep, offers a unique and charming animal companionship experience. These creatures are known for their gentle and sociable nature, making them delightful additions to a household or small farm. Ruminants can be great for sustainable practices, like natural weed control or providing fresh milk if appropriately managed.



## What makes an animal a Ruminant?

Ruminants, such as cattle, sheep, and goats, have stomachs that consist of the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. This unique system allows them to digest fibrous plant materials efficiently through a process of fermentation, regurgitation, and re-chewing of their food. Ruminants are adapted to extract nutrients from complex plant materials like grasses and leaves, making them highly efficient herbivores with the ability to thrive on diets that would be indigestible to many other animals.

### AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Mixed

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool.

- **Example 1:** If you choose MIX in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer mixed veterinary services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and MIX in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer mixed veterinary services.





# Trust Your Veterinarian with your pet's prescriptions



In today's consumer driven marketplace, you, the pet owner, have many choices when it comes to the products and services you purchase to meet your pet's needs. While price may often drive the choices pet owners make, shopping on price alone may not always be the best option for your pet's health and safety. While the law in Arizona allows you to fill your pet's prescriptions at your local pharmacy, online, or at a retail outlet, your veterinarian wants to be sure that you know the questions to ask and that you have the information you need to make an informed choice.

## Ask Your Pharmacist

- Is the pharmacist trained in veterinary pharmacology?
- Is the pharmacist filling the prescription exactly as the veterinarian prescribed?

The answers to both of these are critical to the health and safety of your pet. Human pharmacology is not the same as veterinary pharmacology. Dosing and the use of generics are two common areas of confusion. If a pharmacist recommends a different dosage, or the substitution of a generic medication, call your veterinarian for advice before accepting the recommendation. Dosing and generics do not work the same way in animals as they do in humans and any change in the way the prescription is filled can have unintended consequences for your pet.



## Your Veterinarian Can:

- Understand your pet's health needs better than anyone and is your best source of information for all your pet's healthcare needs
- Ensure that your pet is receiving the proper medication and dosage
- Only dispense medications and products that have been properly stored, labeled, and are not expired
- Demonstrate how to administer the medications
- Administer an immediate dosage to instantly start your pet on the road to recovery
- Discuss potential adverse reactions and what you should do if they occur
- Be available for consultation
- Help you manage the side effects of the medication



Always visit your veterinarian first. Only a veterinarian who has seen and examined your pet will truly know what's best for its specific needs.



## Buying Online

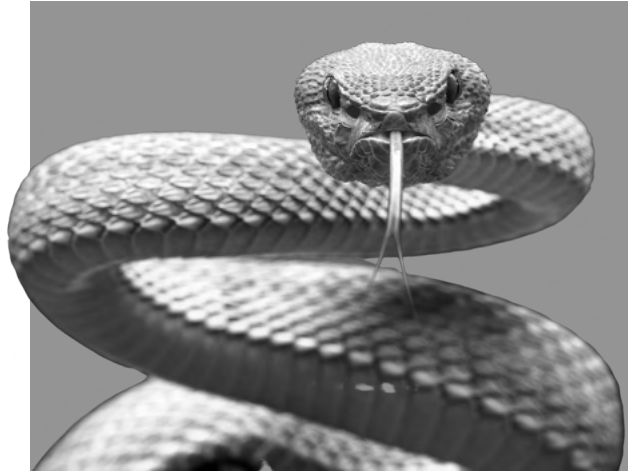
It may be difficult to confirm that your online prescription purchases are properly stored, transported, and from a Vet-Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Site (VIPPS), so caution is advised. If you do purchase online, it is recommended that you ascertain the integrity of the site so that you know the medications and products you receive are exactly what you ordered. Doing business with a pharmacy licensed in your state that has been VIPPS verified is the best way to ensure this.



# EXOTICS

## Clinics & Hospitals

Reptiles include some of the most ancient species on Earth. They are interesting in appearance and behavior, and some are brightly colored. They live in many different environments and have developed fascinating adaptations to survive in water and on land. Some reptiles (e.g., many types of snakes) only eat once a week, making it easier to care for them when you are away. In general, reptiles require less daily care and exercise than other pets such as cats and dogs, however they require special skills to care for properly and can suffer serious health consequences from improper diets, handling, or habitats.



Since each reptile species is unique, thoroughly research the animal you want as a pet before you obtain one. Learn what is known about the reptile's natural habitat (e.g., diet, environmental conditions) as well as how experienced reptile owners have cared for that species.

**Source:** AVMA

### **AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Exotics**

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool.

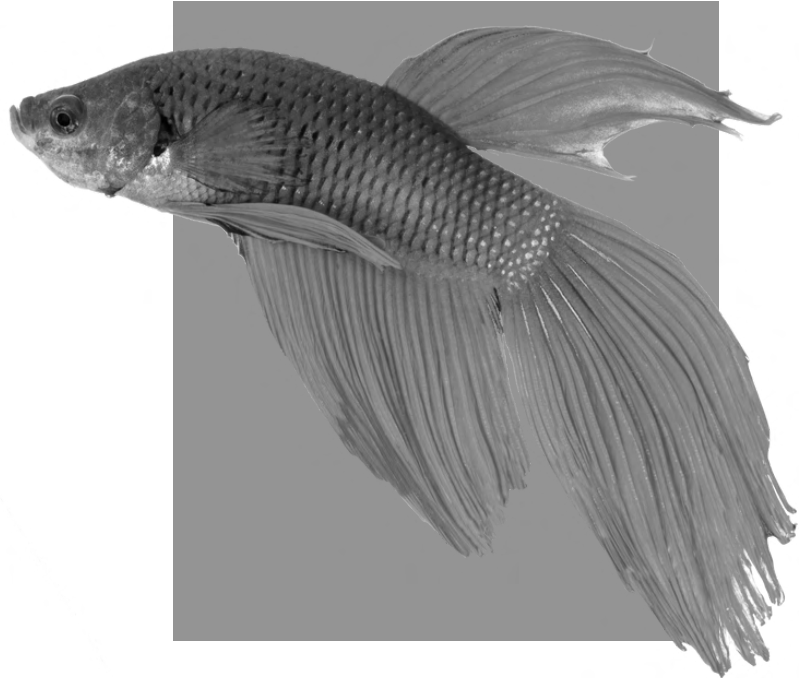
- **Example 1:** If you choose EXO in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer exotics veterinary services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and EXO in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer exotics veterinary services.



# GOT A Sick Fish?

**Fish with disease can show a variety of signs. If you notice your pet fish having any unusual disease signs, contact your veterinarian for further advice. These are some of the most common signs of disease seen in pet fish:**

- Appearing disoriented, such as swimming upside down
- Leaving food uneaten
- White spots on fins or body
- Discolored gills
- Trouble breathing such as gasping at surface of water
- Bulging eyes (one or both)
- Mucus accumulation on the body
- Rubbing on hard surfaces
- Unusual isolation from the group of fish (if housed with others)
- Skin lesions/sores anywhere on body
- Bloating
- Crooked back or other changes in fish shape or size



**Many of the following signs found above are commonly associated with a variety of diseases found in fish. Below are some common diseases found in pet fish:**

- Physical injury
- Parasites such as white spot disease or “Ick”, nematodes, anchor worms, fish lice, gill maggots, monogenean flukes
- Bacterial infections such as columnaris disease and mycobacterial infections
- Fungal infections such as Saprolegnia, Branchiomyces, and Fusarium
- Finrot or ulcer disease: rotting of the fins caused by bacterial or fungal infections
- Hole-in-the-head: holes in the front or side of a fish’s head. The cause for this disease is still unknown but several factors are believed to play a role
- Fish pox: caused by a fish herpes virus resulting in gray, pink or white wart-like growths (common in Koi fish)
- Velvet or coral fish disease: a parasitic disease that results in dusty and slimy scales (common in tropical fish)
- Ammonia or chlorine poisoning resulting from poor water quality

**Source:** AVMA

# POCKET PET

## Clinics & Hospitals

There are a range of small rodent species that offer options from interesting exotics to placid, domesticated species. They usually live in an enclosed habitat like a cage, pen, or hutch, but most will enjoy spending time outside their habitat with their human family. Their size and cage-pet status can make them seem like a less expensive or easier pet-keeping option. However, rodents still require an investment of time, attention, and resources in order to thrive and provide the best companionship for their owners.



Make sure everyone in your family is comfortable with the idea of sharing their home with a rodent, understands that they will require an investment of time and attention, and accepts that they will become part of family activities.

**Source:** AVMA

### **AzVMA Find a Veterinarian Tool - Mixed**

For the most up-to-date live listing of AzVMA veterinarian members and their services, scan the QR code below, or, visit [azvma.org/FindAVet](http://azvma.org/FindAVet), to bring up the **Find a Veterinarian** tool.

- **Example 1:** If you choose MIX in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find all AzVMA members who offer mixed veterinary services.
- **Example 2:** If you include Phoenix in the "City/Town" field and MIX in the "Practice Type" field, your search will find only AzVMA members who practice in Phoenix and also offer mixed veterinary services.





# A TRIP TO THE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE

Learn about your pet's healthcare team and follow their journey to good health!



## 1. FRONT DESK

Check in for your appointment with our Client Service Representative. Their goal is to make you feel welcome and prepare you for your visit. The CSR will also schedule appointments for annual check ups, dental cleanings, follow ups, other visits and, make sure you leave with any medications or special diets prescribed by the veterinarian. They help you maintain a regular schedule of veterinary care for the health of your pet.



## 2. TECHNICIANS AND TECHNICIAN ASSISTANTS

Follow our Veterinary Technician or Technician Assistant to the scale (dogs) so we can record your pet's weight. They will escort you to the exam room and make sure your pet is comfortable during their visit. Technicians and technician assistants are trained to recognize signs of distress or aggression and understand the techniques for helping your pet cope with anxiety. They are also trained to perform certain functions as directed by the veterinarian.



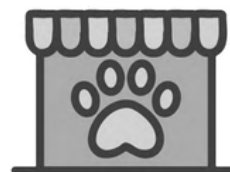
## 3. CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS

Technicians who have completed two years of technology education and have passed a national examination, have earned the CVT (certified veterinary technician) designation. The CVT will generally do an initial assessment of your pet and record their vital signs. They will assist the veterinarian during the exam and perform certain procedures under direct supervision. They will also discuss the treatment plan recommended by the veterinarian and the cost of care. Some CVTs have also earned a VTS (Veterinary Technician Specialty) by undergoing additional training in a specific area of medicine.



## 4. BOARDING

Is your pet staying with us overnight? If your pet is here for some extra needed care, our Kennel attendants will supervise your pet's visit. They make sure the facilities are kept clean and sanitized and that your pet is comfortable during their stay. Kennel attendants are trained to observe your pet and report any changes in their condition or behavior to the veterinarian so your pet can quickly receive the attention it needs.



## 5. ADMINISTRATION

Our Practice Manager makes sure our practice is conforming to all guidelines and is complying with best practices so you can have peace of mind that our team is highly professional. The manager is responsible for the day to day business functions and team coordination so that there is no interruption in service and you can have confidence that your team meets the high standards of excellence.

# EMERGENCY Preparedness

It's never fun to think about, but making an emergency plan for your four-legged family members is necessary!

Cut out the graphic to the right and place it on your window at home for emergency services in case of emergency.

Visit: [azvma.org/EmergencyCare](http://azvma.org/EmergencyCare) for more resources



## Emergency checklist for cats:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photocopied veterinary records    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof container for documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding instructions for each animal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccinations                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Microchip information              | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-week supply of medications         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical summary                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Your contact information           | <input type="checkbox"/> Collar w/ ID                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabies certificate                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-week supply of food              | <input type="checkbox"/> Litterbox + litter                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription for medications      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-week supply of water             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet first aid book + kit             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Most recent FeLV/FIV test results | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-spill food + water dishes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet carrier w/ bedding + towels      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration information          | <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies for accidents      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet descriptions(s)               |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recent photographs                |   |   |

## Emergency checklist for dogs:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photocopied veterinary records | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof container for documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding instructions for each animal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccinations                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Microchip information              | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-week supply of medications         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical summary                | <input type="checkbox"/> Your contact information           | <input type="checkbox"/> Leash + collar w/ ID                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabies certificate             | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-week supply of food              | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription for medications   | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-week supply of water             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet first aid book + kit             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Most recent heartworm results  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-spill food + water dishes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet carrier w/ bedding + towels      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration information       | <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies for accidents      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet descriptions(s)            |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recent photographs             |   |   |

# HOW DOES THE AZVMF SUPPORT VETERINARY MEDICINE?



The Arizona Veterinary Medical Foundation (AzVMF) bases its mission on four pillars of support in the Arizona veterinary community: Student Scholarships, Disaster Relief, Military Support, and Veterinary Well-Being. We believe supporting each pillar is instrumental in providing opportunity & excellence for our community so it can thrive and continue to advance the veterinary profession. We invite you to join us in our efforts to invest in our profession! One hundred percent of each contribution is applied directly to Foundation causes, and is tax deductible to the extent of the law.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Arizona Veterinary Medical Foundation (AzVMF) recognizes the talent and dedication it takes for students to achieve a career in veterinary medicine.

Advancing the profession begins with these visionary young people but it comes with a great financial commitment. The AzVMF has dedicated one of its four pillars to investing in future veterinarians and students of veterinary technology as they aspire to achieve a high level of excellence in their quest to have a positive impact on human and animal health.



## DISASTER RELIEF

When disaster strikes, veterinarians are called to action. They serve as front line responders and provide a support system to ensure that those affected will be cared for under the most difficult of circumstances. Many times this comes at great personal cost, including time away from their patients and clients, long hours of volunteer work, and the donation of supplies and pharmaceuticals to address the plethora of needs of those displaced, abandoned or injured. The AzVMF has made disaster assistance one of its four pillars and will offer support to veterinarians who engage in this noble work to serve those in need.



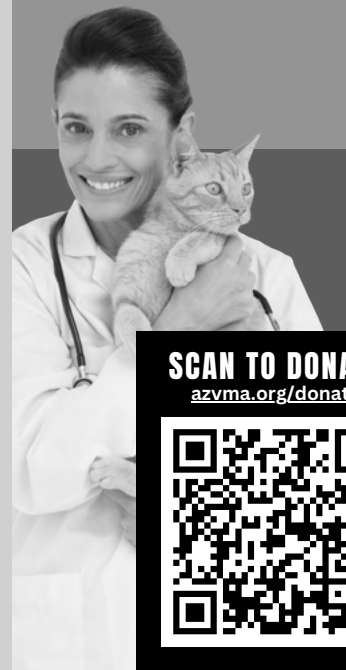
## MILITARY SUPPORT

AzVMF joins all Americans in saluting and supporting the men and women of our armed services. Many veterans benefit from animal companionship and are enrolled in programs that help train animals to meet their needs, physical and emotional. Others have adopted animals on their own, but struggle with providing regular veterinary care, or having the resources to deal with a veterinary emergency. AzVMF has identified this as another pillar of its charitable giving activities with the goal of positively impacting the lives of veterans and their animal companions.



## VETERINARY WELL-BEING

Veterinarians, like individuals in other professions, are not immune from the impact the daily rigors of their responsibilities have on their mental and physical health. Their devotion to their clients, patients, staff and their own families, sometimes leaves little time for self-care and can result in an adverse impact on their physical and mental well-being. With its fourth pillar, the AzVMF will focus its attention and support for helping veterinarians achieve a sustainable work-life balance and access resources to achieve a healthy mix of work and leisure pursuits.



SCAN TO DONATE  
[azvma.org/donate](https://azvma.org/donate)



# AZVMA MOBILE APP For Pet Owners & Lovers

The Arizona Veterinary Medical Association is dedicated to providing pet lovers with access to the important pet news, tips and resources. Download the app to stay connected!

## How to Download:

1. Visit the App Store for IOS or Google Play for Android devices.
2. Search for the "AzVMA" app & tap the icon to install/download.
3. Connect & enjoy!



## Content Includes:

- A "Find a Veterinarian" Directory
- Tips & Tools for Pet Owners
- Pet Owner Resources
- News & Alerts for Pet Owners
- Announcements on Pet Health Awareness Holidays
- Donation Information for the AzVMF





# DESERT DANGERS

Sago Palm



Fiddleneck



Oleander

## PLANTS

These plants are dangerous and can be fatal for your pet. All parts of these plants are poisonous, especially the seeds & flowers. Other plants include:

- Azalea
- Century Plant
- Daffodils
- Lantana
- Tulips



Jumping Cholla



Saguaro

## WILDLIFE

Dangerous wildlife can be anywhere. Seek emergency care if your pet comes in contact with any of them. Other animals include:

- Bobcat
- Desert Fox
- Hawk
- Javelina
- Scorpions

Coyote



Rattlesnake



Colorado River Toad

## CACTI INJURIES

Cactus needles can get stuck in the eyes, mouth, feet, etc. If your pet becomes distressed, please seek veterinary care immediately.

A cactus needle injury should be treated as a puncture wound. When the needles enter through the skin they are creating an opening for bacteria. Some tools that will be helpful to have on hand are tweezers, antibiotic ointment, bandages & gauze.

With additional help to keep your pet calm, carefully remove the needles with tweezers by pulling in the direction of hair growth. There may be blood upon needle removal, so have the bandages & gauze handy. Make sure to clean any blood before moving to a different affected area.

After removal, check each affected area and apply antibiotic ointment as needed. If the area does not improve or starts to swell make an appointment to see a veterinarian as soon as possible.

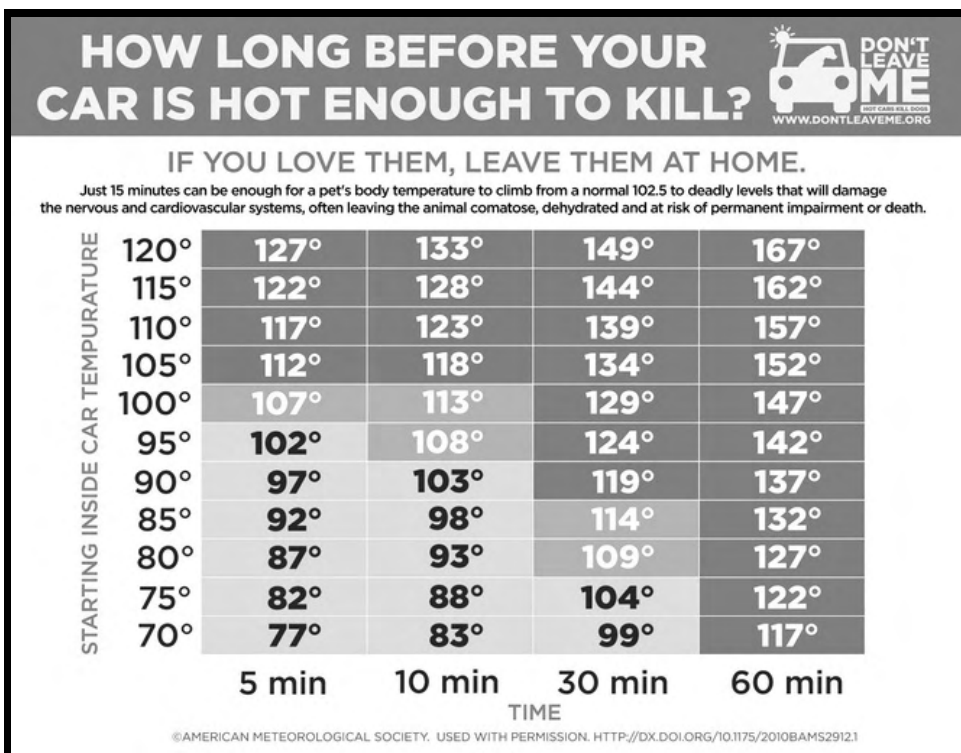
# SAMARITAN Hot Car Law

Arizona HB 2494 was passed on May 11, 2017 as a measure aimed to end hot-car deaths and allows good Samaritans to take action without risk of civil liability if they rescue a child or a pet from a hot car.



## HB 2494 Provisions

- A person who uses reasonable force to remove a child or domestic animal from a locked motor vehicle is not liable for damages in a civil action if they comply with the following conditions:
- The rescuer has a good faith belief that the confined child or pet is in imminent danger of suffering physical injury or death unless they are removed from the vehicle.
- The rescuer determines the car is locked or there is no reasonable manner in which the person can remove the child or pet.
- Before entering the vehicle, the rescuer notifies the proper authorities (defined).
- The rescuer does not use more force than is necessary under the circumstances to enter the vehicle.
- The rescuer remains with the child or pet until the authorities arrive.



### Laws on rescuing pets from hot cars vary by state

Twenty-nine states have laws that protect people who try to save animals from hot vehicles from lawsuits, criminal charges, or both, according to information gathered by Michigan State University's Animal Legal & Historical Center.

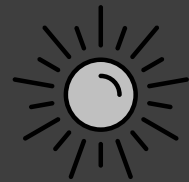
However, **just 14 of those states have protections** that can apply to regular citizens, called "good Samaritan" statutes. The rest only grant immunity from civil and/or criminal liability to emergency responders like police officers and animal control officials, the Center says.

**The states with that protection** are **Arizona**, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

**Source:** USA Today



# The Heat's On You... *Keep it Cool*



*Your pet has sensitive feet*  
Make sure they are protected.

If you see your pet prancing, high-stepping or limping, chances are the pads on their feet are sore or injured.

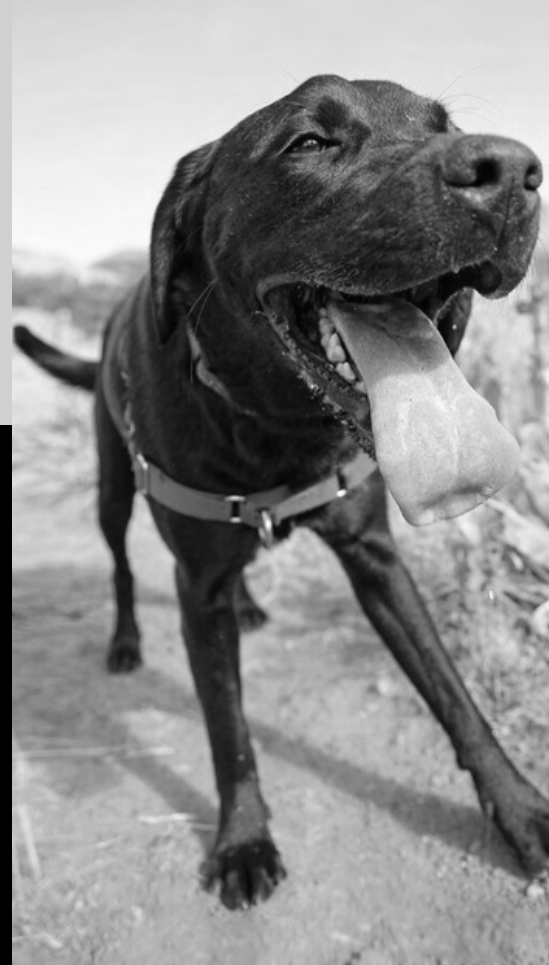
Hot pavement can cause painful blisters and hot, dry weather can cause paw pads to develop cracks. If this happens, your pet needs to see their veterinarian for treatment to avoid further damage and infection.

Two easy ways to avoid this painful injury are taking walks during the cool parts of the day and checking to see how hot the pavement is before you go out are.

## *Resources for Pet Owners:*

**Emergency Care -**  
[azvma.org/EmergencyCare](http://azvma.org/EmergencyCare)

**Samaritan Hot Car Law -**  
[azvma.org/HotCarLaw](http://azvma.org/HotCarLaw)



## *It's Hot!*

Did you know that cats & dogs can't sweat like people to control their body temperature?

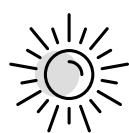
They do have sweat glands in their foot pads, but rely on panting as the main way to stay cool. When it's hot, humid or there's not enough air circulation, pets can be in serious medical danger fast. Make sure your pets have water, shade and air circulation. Never leave them in a closed car. If your pet is staggering, vomiting, seems weak, or has difficulty breathing, call your veterinarian.



## *Pool Safety*

Fencing and supervision are important for your pet's safety.

Watch your pets around water and make sure they know how to get out of the pool. Puppies and older pets should be supervised. They can tire quickly and, even though they know where the pool steps are, may not be able to get to them. Pool covers can seem like solid ground to a pet until they step on it.



## *Hot Tip:*

Ask your veterinarian about prevention, symptoms, first aid instruction, and emergency care.

## *Dehydration is Dangerous*

Hot weather means your pet will pant more and lose fluids faster.

People and their pets need more water in the summertime. Dehydration can be very dangerous, especially for small breeds, kittens, puppies, sick or senior pets. It's possible for a pet to become dehydrated in just a few hours if they don't have adequate water. Signs of pet dehydration can include dry mouth, gums or nose, sunken eyes, lethargy, exhaustion and lack of elasticity in the skin. Testing the skin is one way to determine if your pet is dehydrated. Gently pinch some skin on their back or the back of their neck. It should spring back into place quickly. If it doesn't your pet may be dehydrated and need veterinary care.



# ANIMAL WELFARE Resources

Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. Ensuring animal welfare is a human responsibility that includes consideration for all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia.

- **Arizona State Laws Related to Animal Cruelty**
  - **A.R.S. 13-2910** - Cruelty to animals; interference with working or service animal; classification; definitions
  - Reporting Animal Abuse: Call 911 or the law enforcement agency in your city or county
- **Maricopa County Sheriff's Office - Animal Cruelty Investigative Unit (ACIU)**
  - Emergency: 911
  - Reporting: 602-876-1011
- **Animal Cruelty Task Force of Southern Arizona (ACT)**
  - Emergency: 911
  - Anonymous Reporting: 520-547-0260
- **ARS 32-2239** - Duty of veterinarian to report suspected abuse, cruelty, neglect or animal fighting; immunity.
  - **A.** A veterinarian who reasonably suspects or believes that an animal has been a victim of abuse, cruelty or neglect or has been involved in animal fighting shall report that suspicion, or cause a report to be made, to law enforcement within forty-eight hours after treatment or examination. The report shall include the breed and description of the animal and the name and address of the owner or person who sought the examination or treatment. Veterinary records shall be provided to local law enforcement on request in furtherance of any criminal investigation for abuse, cruelty, neglect or animal fighting.
  - **B.** A veterinarian shall report, in writing, suspected cases of abuse of livestock to the associate director of the division of animal services in the Arizona department of agriculture pursuant to title 3, chapter 11, article 1. The report shall be made within forty-eight hours after treatment or examination and shall include the breed and description of the animal together with the name and address of the owner.
  - **C.** A veterinarian who files a report as provided in this section shall be immune from civil liability with respect to any report made in good faith.

# National Check the Chip Day

Annually in August



Review your pet's microchip profile in AAHA's free microchip search.

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

## Is your pet registered?

Only 6 in 10 microchips are registered

*"Why should I microchip my pet?"*

- 1 in 3 family pets will get separated from their owners
- If your pet is lost or stolen, the chip will provide proof of ownership
- Microchipping your pet is quick, easy & painless!



## Did You Know?

Microchipped dogs are more than **twice as likely** to be returned to their owners, and microchipped cats are **20 times** more likely to be returned home.

Microchips are **not** a replacement for tags and a collar. Always be sure your pet has proper identification on them in case they get lost.

Read more about microchipping your pet:  
[www.avma.org/microchipping-animals-faq](http://www.avma.org/microchipping-animals-faq)



# VETERINARY School Admission

We're sure you've already heard how competitive it is to get into veterinary school. Sure, it's competitive – but it's not impossible. If you've got good science and math skills and an interest in helping animals, follow your dream. Who better to help you than the people who've already been there?



## **GRADES**

Duh, you say. Of course you have to have good grades to be competitive. Although a 4.0 will certainly help you, it's not an absolute necessity. Why are grades important? They can indicate your intelligence, your study habits, and your dedication and drive to succeed. Those are all qualities veterinary schools are looking for when they evaluate applicants. When a school sees an "A," they think you studied hard, did well, and learned. So, what if your grades are good but not great? Does that mean you've got no chance? No, it doesn't. Veterinary schools are looking for well-rounded students. They're looking for future leaders. You can make yourself a better candidate by getting good (or great) grades as well as experience and leadership skills.

## **PREREQUISITES**

You could have a 4.0 GPA and still not get into veterinary school if you haven't completed the prerequisites required for admission. Make sure you know your prospective schools' requirements when you plan your undergraduate classes. Fortunately, most schools have similar requirements. For more information and links to U.S. veterinary colleges, visit the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) website. That said, check out your school's undergraduate catalog for courses that aren't on the vet school prerequisite list but might be good courses to give you a "leg up" and better prepare you for the coursework you'll have in vet school. For example, consider taking upper-level anatomy and physiology, zoology, microbiology, animal science/animal production, nutrition, and histology courses, to name a few. It's possible that taking these courses as an undergrad can make the comparable vet school classes much less stressful for you because you've already got a good foundation in that subject.

## **MAJORS**

You don't have to be a pre-vet major to get into vet school – you just need to get the prerequisite coursework completed and do well. We've seen vet students whose undergraduate majors were math, engineering, English, and many others. Once you're in vet school, the playing field is equal. It's important to enjoy your undergrad studies by picking a major that you are passionate about – not simply the "best one" for getting into vet school.

**Source:** AVMA

**EXPERIENCE**

If you've been in 4-H, FFA or a similar group, that's great experience that should go on your veterinary school admission form. Similarly, working with animals in any way can be of value. For example, volunteering at shelters or rescues can provide animal handling experience that will help make you a better candidate. Volunteering or working for a veterinarian is very important. Not only does it expose you to your potential career (so you know what you're getting into, so to speak), but it also might provide a good recommendation for you from the veterinarian. Varied experience is also helpful. If you have the opportunity to work in a research lab or for veterinarians who work with different species, that's a bonus that can make you more appealing to a veterinary school admissions committee. Get as much experience as you can while you have the opportunity.

**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Leadership experience, such as holding an office in student government or other groups, is a big plus. Get involved in your pre-vet club, student government, fraternity/sorority, or other organization. If one of these doesn't exist, get some others together and start a club of your own!

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Because veterinarians' patients can't really talk and tell them what's wrong, people tend to think that communication skills are less important. That couldn't be more untrue. It's essential for veterinarians to have good communication skills so their clients can understand what's going on with their animals and do their parts to help resolve the problem. Coursework or extracurricular activities that improve your communication skills are definitely helpful...not to mention it can help you when it comes to the interview. Most of us dread public speaking, but that's all the more reason to take a class or two. Becoming more comfortable speaking to larger audiences will come in handy later in life.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Get to know your professors. Sure, a professor can write a letter stating that you got an "A" in their class, but can they say anything else about you? A good letter of recommendation comes from a person who knows who you really are. You can get to know professors by attending office hours, volunteering in their research projects, or joining a club that they advise. Check with the vet schools you are applying to for their requirements of who they want the letters to come from – usually they want to hear not only from your professors, but also vets that you have worked with.

**STANDARDIZED TESTS**

Standardized tests? Again? And you thought that was over when you finished high school! The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required by most veterinary schools, and some also require the Biology GRE. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is also accepted by some schools in place of the GRE. Find out where you can take the exam and what preparation you need to succeed. For a listing of each accredited veterinary school's requirements, go to the AAVMC site at [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org). More information can be found at <http://www.ets.org/gre>.

**HAVE FUN!**

All work and no play can actually make you a less desirable candidate. Not all of your courses and extracurricular activities should be 100% focused on meeting the admission requirements. Do the things you like, join the clubs you find fun, and enjoy your life.

**WHAT IF YOU DON'T GET IN?**

You're not alone, and it doesn't mean you don't have what it takes. Contact the admissions staff and request feedback on your application, then address the deficiencies and reapply next year.



# Valley Fever & Your Pet

## What You Should Know

### What is Valley Fever?

**Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis) is a fungal infection that primarily affects the lungs, though in dogs it seems to spread easily to the bones and other organs. It is a mold found in soil in the arid and semiarid desert regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The fungus grows in the soil and forms spores that are inhaled when dirt is disturbed.**

### Who Can Get Valley Fever?

People and animals can get valley fever and dogs comprise the majority of animal cases. Llamas and alpacas are very susceptible; cats, horses and exotic pets can also get sick. Even indoor pets are at risk because the tiny, airborne fungal spores cannot be kept out of the house.

### How Does My Veterinarian Diagnose Valley Fever in My Pet?

Valley Fever can be difficult to diagnose. After a thorough history and physical examination, your veterinarian may suggest a complete blood count, a chemistry panel to check organ function, a valley fever test, and x-rays of lungs or bones. The valley fever test can be falsely negative early in the infection, so it may need to be repeated several weeks later. Additional diagnostic tests such as abdominal ultrasound, biopsies or even an MRI for suspected brain infection may be recommended.

### What are the Treatments for Valley Fever?

In most cases, an animal will require anti-fungal medication prescribed by a veterinarian. Courses of medication are usually extensive, averaging 6-28 months. Fluconazole and itraconazole are the two most commonly prescribed oral medications. Intravenous amphotericin B may be needed for severe or unresponsive infections.

### What are the Side Effects of Treatment?

Side effects of antifungal drugs are usually mild. They can include lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, and increased liver enzymes. Your veterinarian will test your dog's blood to make sure the liver is tolerating treatment. Occasional side effects include dry skin, thinning of coat, and excessive drinking and urination. Itraconazole may also cause skin lesions.

### What Are the Symptoms of Valley Fever in My Pet?

The most common symptoms of valley fever in dogs are dry harsh cough, fever, lack of appetite, lethargy and weight loss. Cats may cough and lose weight but most commonly have non-healing skin wounds. If the infection has spread to the bones, pets may limp. Check with your Veterinarian if you notice:

- Swelling of joints
- Weight loss
- Chronic coughing
- Skin abscesses
- Incoordination
- Non-healing wounds
- Lack of Energy
- Seizures
- Difficulty breathing
- Limping

### Where in Arizona is Valley Fever a Concern?

The highest concentration of Valley Fever infection in animals and humans is in southern and central Arizona around Tucson and Phoenix. The central valley area of California is also a hotbed, and there is some risk in most of the warm, arid regions of the western US and Texas.

### Is Valley Fever Contagious from Animal to Animal?

Valley Fever is considered a non-contagious disease. Even if multiple animals or humans are affected in a household, each infection was acquired by inhaling spores from the environment. Coughing cannot spread it between animals or people.

### What Can I do to Prevent My Pet From Getting Valley Fever?

There is no way to prevent your pet from getting valley fever. Being aware of symptoms can help your pet receive treatment in the early stages. Researchers are developing a vaccine to prevent valley fever in dogs.

### What is the Prognosis for My Pet?

Most animals, with adequate anti-fungal therapy, do recover from this disease, especially with early diagnosis and intervention. Infection involving only the lungs usually responds the quickest to treatment. Animals with valley fever that has spread to the bones or the brain often require prolonged drug treatment, sometimes for life. In the most severe cases, the prognosis is uncertain even with the best care.

### When Should I Contact My Veterinarian?

If your pet is exhibiting any of the signs listed to the left, you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. If Valley Fever is diagnosed, everything possible will be done to help return your pet to good health. Remember that regular veterinary check-ups can prevent early stage health issues from becoming major medical challenges and save your pet from needless suffering. You should see your veterinarian at least once a year to make sure your pet stays healthy.

# THANK YOU for contributing

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors and advertisers who have played an instrumental role in bringing the new Pet Resource Directory to life! With your collective expertise and generosity, Arizona pet owners will now have access to a comprehensive guide that enriches the lives of their beloved animals. Your contributions will undoubtedly make a positive impact, fostering healthier and happier relationships between humans, pets, and veterinarians.



**Carefree Dentistry & Oral Surgery for Animals**

**Gentle Journey In-Home Pet Euthanasia and Hospice Care**

**Maricopa County Animal Care & Control**

**VCA Animal Referral & Emergency Center of Arizona**



**Arizona Veterinary Medical Association**

602-242-7936 | [education@azvma.org](mailto:education@azvma.org)

