



PAW Prints

WELCOME BACK PAWS PALS! AND JUST LIKE THAT, THE FALL SEASON IS BEHIND US AND WE ARE IN THE SWING OF WINTER, ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER MAY TELL US DIFFERENTLY. THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF EXCITING CHANGE WITHIN PAWS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS AND EVEN MORE EXCITING NEWS IS AHEAD OF US! GRAB A WARM DRINK, A FURRY FRIEND, GET COZY, AND LET'S CRACK INTO IT!

ALTHOUGH WE DON'T HAVE THE DANGERS OF COLD, HARSH WINTERS HERE IN TUCSON ARIZONA, THERE ARE OTHER NATURAL EXPOSURES YOUR PET COULD BE AT RISK FOR WHICH IS WHY WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DEEP DIVE INTO THE NOTORIOUS... VALLEY FEVER!

What is Valley Fever and how does your pet contract it?

VALLEY FEVER, ALSO KNOWN AS COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS, IS A FUNGAL INFECTION CAUSED BY COCCIDIOIDES SPECIES. THESE FUNGI LIVE IN THE SOIL IN CERTAIN ARID REGIONS, PARTICULARLY IN PARTS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. VALLEY FEVER MOST COMMONLY AFFECTS THE LUNGS, BUT IT CAN ALSO SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY, SUCH AS THE SKIN, BONES, AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

ANIMALS, JUST LIKE HUMANS, CAN CONTRACT VALLEY FEVER WHEN THEY INHALE THE MICROSCOPIC FUNGAL SPORES (CALLED ARTHROCONIDIA) THAT ARE RELEASED INTO THE AIR WHEN SOIL IS DISTURBED (FOR EXAMPLE, BY WIND, CONSTRUCTION, OR FARMING). THE SPORES THEN LODGE IN THE ANIMAL'S LUNGS, WHERE THE INFECTION CAN DEVELOP.

What about treatment?

TREATMENT FOR VALLEY FEVER IN PETS GENERALLY INVOLVES ANTIFUNGAL MEDICATIONS TO KILL THE COCCIDIOIDES FUNGUS AND HELP MANAGE SYMPTOMS. THE SPECIFIC TREATMENT PLAN DEPENDS ON THE SEVERITY OF THE INFECTION, THE PET'S OVERALL HEALTH, AND THE ORGANS AFFECTED. FLUCONAZOLE AND ITRACONAZOLE ARE THE MOST COMMONLY PRESCRIBED ANTIFUNGAL MEDICATIONS. THESE DRUGS HELP STOP THE GROWTH AND SPREAD OF THE FUNGUS IN THE BODY. SUPPORTIVE CARE SUCH AS KIDNEY/LIVER SUPPLEMENTS AND MONITORING YOUR PET'S VALLEY FEVER TITER LEVELS IS ALWAYS RECOMMENDED!

What are the typical Valley Fever symptoms?

- COUGHING
- LETHARGY OR WEAKNESS
- LOSS OF APPETITE
- FEVER
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- LAMENESS
- SEIZURE ACTIVITY

Now for some fun feline news...

THE TIME HAS COME! AS OF OCTOBER 2024, THE FELINE FOCUS DEPARTMENT IS OFFICIALLY UP AND RUNNING! YOU MAY BE ASKING YOURSELF, WHY IS A "CAT ONLY SPACE" SO IMPORTANT? A CAT-ONLY VETERINARY CLINIC OFFERS NUMEROUS BENEFITS FOR BOTH CATS AND THEIR OWNERS. WITH A FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON FELINES, THE STAFF AT THESE CLINICS ARE OFTEN MORE SPECIALIZED IN UNDERSTANDING THE UNIQUE MEDICAL NEEDS, BEHAVIORS, AND STRESSORS OF CATS. THE ENVIRONMENT IS TYPICALLY QUIETER AND MORE RELAXED, REDUCING THE ANXIETY MANY CATS EXPERIENCE IN MULTI-SPECIES CLINICS. THIS SPECIALIZED CARE ALSO ALLOWS FOR A MORE TAILORED APPROACH TO TREATMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE CARE, AS WELL AS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON FELINE HEALTH ISSUES, SUCH AS DENTAL DISEASE AND KIDNEY PROBLEMS. ADDITIONALLY, CAT-ONLY CLINICS CAN PROVIDE A MORE COMPASSIONATE AND FELINE-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE, ENSURING THAT CATS RECEIVE THE ATTENTION AND CARE THEY TRULY DESERVE. FEEL FREE TO DROP IN FOR A TOUR ANY MONDAY-FRIDAY! LOCATED EAST OF THE ORIGINAL PAWS BUILDING, OFFICIAL ADDRESS IS 360 E RIVER ROAD.

Now for some rehab news...

ALONG WITH OUR NEW FELINE DEPARTMENT, WE ALSO HAVE A NEW REHAB DEPARTMENT! AT OUR PET REHABILITATION FACILITY, WE PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF THERAPEUTIC SERVICES DESIGNED TO HELP PETS RECOVER, REGAIN STRENGTH, AND IMPROVE MOBILITY. OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART UNDERWATER TREADMILL OFFERS LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE THAT PROMOTES MUSCLE BUILDING AND JOINT STABILITY WITHOUT STRAINING THE BODY. WE ALSO OFFER ACUPUNCTURE, WHICH CAN REDUCE PAIN AND INFLAMMATION WHILE ENHANCING OVERALL WELL-BEING. OUR FLOOR EXERCISES AND STRETCHES ARE TAILORED TO EACH PET'S NEEDS, PROMOTING FLEXIBILITY, STRENGTH, AND BALANCE. ADDITIONALLY, OUR ADVANCED LASER THERAPY AIDS IN REDUCING INFLAMMATION AND ACCELERATING THE HEALING PROCESS. WITH A FOCUS ON HOLISTIC RECOVERY, WE PROVIDE THE CARE, ATTENTION, AND EXPERTISE NEEDED TO HELP PETS LEAD HEALTHIER, HAPPIER LIVES AFTER SURGERY, INJURY, OR ILLNESS.

With all of that being said, we hope our PAWS family has a wonderful winter season! We truly appreciate the trust and continued support of our clients. Your loyalty and dedication to your pets' health mean the world to us.

-PAWS Team-