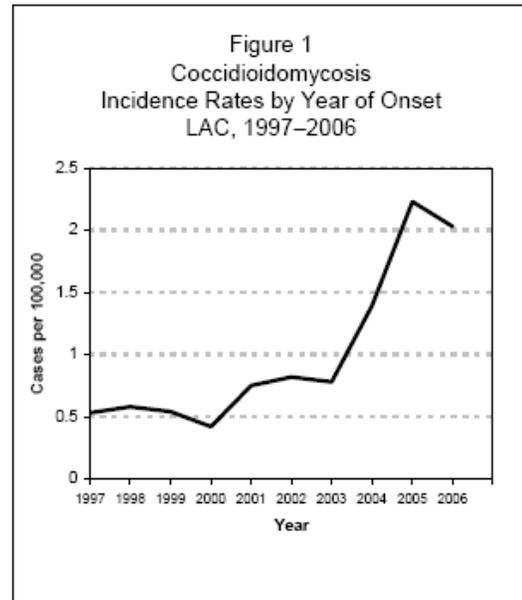


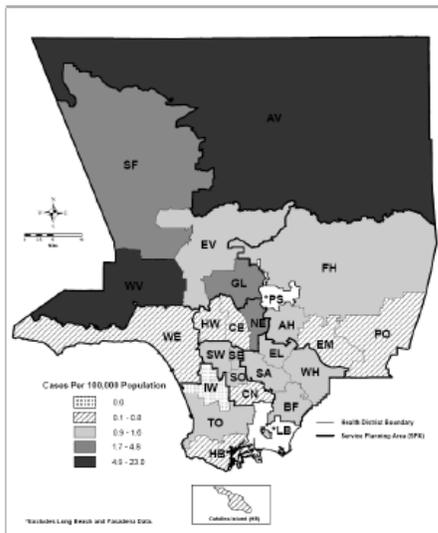
## Veterinarian's Brief: Valley Fever in Animals in Los Angeles County

Over the past few years, the number of reported human cases of coccidioidomycosis, or Valley Fever, has been increasing in Los Angeles County (see chart at right) as it has throughout the southwestern United States. The Antelope Valley and the western San Fernando Valley have had a higher reported incidence of human cases than other areas of L.A. County (see map below).

Public Health has been tracking these cases, studying risk factors for infection, and conducting outreach to local physicians about the increase. For more information see the Coccidioidomycosis section of the Acute Communicable Disease Control Annual Morbidity Report 2005, available at: [lapublichealth.org/acd/reports.htm](http://lapublichealth.org/acd/reports.htm).



**Incidence of Human Coccidioidomycosis,  
Los Angeles County, 1997-2006**  
 From Los Angeles County Public Health  
 Acute Communicable Disease Control



**Human Coccidioidomycosis Rates by Health District,  
L. A. County, 2005.**  
 From Los Angeles County Public Health  
 Acute Communicable Disease Control  
 Annual Morbidity Report 2005

Although *Coccidioides immitis* can infect over 70 species (including cats, horses and llamas), dogs are the most susceptible. In dogs, coccidioidomycosis may result in a range of clinical signs, from no symptoms, to severe lung, bone, skin, eye, and brain lesions. The most common clinical signs in dogs are fever, lethargy, and a cough (either dry or moist). The infection is not considered contagious from person-to-person, or from dog-to-person.

