

FACES OF VALLEY FEVER

JADE

PET OF
MARIAH TORRES



It all began shortly after Valentine's Day when I woke to find my dog yelping and struggling to breathe. We rushed her to an emergency vet, where they said her blood work was fine but her oxygen levels were low, so they sent us home with medications. The next night, it happened again—only worse. She was having seizures, fainting, and her breathing had become very shallow. A week later, we saw our vet, who diagnosed pneumonia and began treatment. After a month, the meds weren't working. With worsening symptoms, our vet suspected meningitis and referred us to a neurologist in Ventura. Just before the visit, someone mentioned Valley Fever, so we asked for a test—and on the way to Ventura, we got the call: she tested positive. We had to order her anti fungal meds from Arizona, which took weeks to arrive.

Her symptoms included lethargy, seizures, fainting, shallow breathing, coughing, and appetite loss. Thankfully, it's been about two months now, and while she's still tired and underweight, the seizures have stopped, and her appetite is back. I want others to know this disease can affect pets. If your dog shows strange symptoms, ask for a Valley Fever test. Don't lose hope—it's hard watching them struggle, but there are things you can do: I used steam from hot showers to ease her breathing, fed her homemade bone broth for nutrients, kept her fever monitored, and made sure she rested with her head elevated. Most importantly, I gave her endless cuddles—because even when they're sick and scared, our presence gives them peace.