

## What it is?

Blastomycosis, or Blasto as it is more commonly known, is caused by a fungus. The fungus can affect all mammals. It is not thought to be an illness you can get from a person or animal.

## How do you get it?

The fungus is found in the soil, usually near waterways. The tiny spores, too small to be seen, become airborne when the soil is disturbed. This is why dogs are 14 times more likely than humans to become infected.

## How do you know if your dog is infected?

Symptoms may not appear for months after an infection. They may have a raspy sounding cough, like something is caught in their throat, with laboured breathing. Spreading commonly occurs to the eyes, the bones or even the kidneys.

## How does it affect the body?

The fungus can sit in the lungs for months before producing symptoms. If untreated, or before symptoms occur, it can travel to the other organs causing blindness, limping and kidney failure.

## How can you cure it?

If diagnosed and treated quickly, Blasto can be completely cured with little damage to the body. If treatment is delayed, an infection will likely cause serious illness or death, even in the healthiest victim.

## How can I avoid it?

Currently, there is no easy way to identify the locations where Blasto might be found in the soil. In Canada, Blasto has been identified in both the Thunder Bay District and the area between Thunder Bay and the Manitoba border.



There are known endemic areas in the US as well. You can find a map and more information on the CDC website (search "CDC Blasto").

## What if I have more questions?

If your dog has symptoms or you think they may be susceptible to Blasto, contact your local veterinarian.

If you have a story to share or would like some support, you can join the Facebook group "Blastomycosis Awareness Forum – Canine," or you can find the latest updates, links and current information on the Facebook page "Blastomycosis: A Fungal Diagnosis."

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For the **Love**  
of **DOG**

Have you heard of

**Blasto ?**

