BAILEY, a 4-year-old male cocker/poodle mix, was brought to the VMTH Internal Medicine Service in the summer of 2002 for severe coughing and wheezing. He had recently visited Arizona, and his veterinarian was most suspicious of coccidioidomycosis. Bailey was not responding to treatment, so his owners decided to bring him to UC Davis.

Coccidioidomycosis, also known as Valley Fever, is common in Arizona, as well as other parts of the American southwest. The infection is caused by inhaling fungal spores of *Coccidioides* that live in soil. As dogs love to dig in the dirt, they are readily susceptible to inhaling the fungus. Exposure to the fungus causes mild flu-like signs in most dogs, but in some cases, it spreads to the lungs and elsewhere in the body such as the heart, bones and spine. If not treated, Valley Fever can be fatal.

Bailey was hospitalized at the VMTH for three weeks that summer and received aggressive anti-fungal therapy. The staff and students became quite attached to Bailey, and he and his family became good friends of the hospital. Bailey ultimately beat the infection and was discharged after stealing many hearts at the VMTH.

Maintaining a relationship with the VMTH for more than a decade, Bailey’s family brought him back to the hospital in the winter of 2013 with concerns for his general quality of life. Overall, Bailey appeared healthy, but he had developed cataracts and, most likely, deafness – not uncommon for a dog of 15! Fortunately, the Ophthalmology Service determined that his cataracts were small, he was able to see relatively well even in dim light, and surgery was not necessary at this time.

Bailey returned to his home in Idaho. We are hopeful that he and his family will continue to be in contact with us for many more years to come.