

Dr. Oakley says.....

Welcome to summer! This summer we have been thinking about our community and how we at the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital can contribute to strengthening it.

One group that comes to mind are the local police dogs. They incorporate everything that we, as veterinary health care providers can hope for. They are healthy, well trained, exercised and they get to actively use their minds. We find that the happiest dogs are the ones with jobs. Who works harder than these dogs?

It has come to our attention that the state of CT isn't able to offer the extra measures of safety that we would like to see for our four legged heroes. Bullet-proof vests are not currently provided for our local K9 police force dogs.

One officer pointed out that the most common injury their dogs sustain is from being kicked. Think about it, in close contact with a trained police dog, the bad guys must be flailing to get free while the loyal, brave dogs hold their ground, even if being threatened or harmed. Kicking is more common than bullet or knife injuries but bullet proof vests will protect from all three.

Not surprisingly, these vests are very expensive, but we think we can help. The Lebanon Veterinary Hospital is able to provide one vest to Windham's K9's and we hope you can too. Each vest costs around \$1000, and we will have a donation box in the hospital and encourage you to contribute as well. If we work together, we can provide two potential life saving pieces of equipment to our neighboring town service dogs.

We are so dependent on our animals, as companions, service animals and sometimes even life savers. Please help us to show them our appreciation by keeping them as safe as we can!

We will keep you posted on our progress of donations in upcoming articles! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us at 860-642-7936.

Stay cool!

Dr. O