

Dr. Oakley says....

Summer is coming to the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital and we are making plans! We are booking summer camps for the kids, vacation time for the family, and some much needed down time for all. Now is the time to make your summer plans for your pet too.

Dr. Z always says that many pet families call in a panic at the last minute before a trip because they were unaware of what vaccinations the kennels required.

June is Connecticut's month to license your dogs so each will require their rabies vaccination to be current and to have a signed certificate from their veterinarian. This certificate will also let your town know if your pet has been spayed or neutered. Animals that cannot reproduce are charged a smaller fee than pets that can.

In honor of June licensing month, the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital is offering all pet owners a 50% discount on the rabies vaccination for the month of June! That's half off of the regular price of the vaccine! There is still a charge for other vaccinations and for exams but the vaccine is reduced from now through the end of June. Take advantage if you are coming due!

When you go on vacation this summer, the kennel will require proof of rabies vaccination and likely also Distemper and Bordetella vaccines. Many of you probably know the Bordetella vaccine by its nickname-Kennel cough. Kennel cough, or Bordetella, is a highly contagious deep cough that tends to get passed along when groups of dogs are kenneled together. The actual name of the disease is "Infectious Tracheobronchitis" which is another reason that most people prefer to it just as Kennel cough! Multiple agents cause Tracheobronchitis including Bordetella and Parainfluenza. The vaccine has the ability to combat these. Veterinarians often refer to the vaccine as the Bordetella vaccine, since that is a leading agent in the makeup of the vaccine. If your dog will board, please talk to your veterinarian about this shot. Most kennels require it, and it should be given at least two weeks before your pet enters that kennel. Dogs, cats and people are susceptible to it.

Lastly, since the ground is soft, you may notice that your pet enjoys digging again! I have been enjoying it recently and even found a new weak spot in the Zickmanns fence so I was able to go where I wanted to this afternoon. I really enjoyed it! Their goat was eyeing me with envy as my fence spot came out into their garden where she would really like to be. Dr. Z was quite surprised to see me racing around the back yard when he came home from lunch! Personally, I don't see the problem, but he's already out there with his tools bending the metal back where it was. Go figure! So, just a cautionary tale, freedom is calling and the pets are answering and Dr. Z would warn you to check your fences after this long winter for damage and containment ability....I'll keep checking mine!

Peace,  
Dr. Z