

Dr. Oakley says....Yikes! Hot spots!

Hi! I'm Dr. Oakley, the dog in charge at the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital! Summer has arrived and here come the hot spots! Those raw, oozing lesions that happen so quickly and trouble pets and owners alike.

Treating the wound is easy, finding the underlying cause is not. If you are wondering if your pet has a hot spot, here is what you are looking for: A patch of inflamed skin that appears red, oozing, and moist and seems to be painful or itchy to the dog. They may lick and chew the area and you may notice hair loss.

What causes them? It's believed they stem from allergies, which is why we see them more commonly in summer. Common allergens include: grasses, trees, weeds, dust mites, food allergies, fleas, etc. Since the irritated skin is open, it's prone to bacterial infection which can be deep and have a really bad odor.

How to treat? First, we need to clear up the bacterial infection and provide relief from the pain and itching! Usually, Dr. Z would clip the hair around the spot to better clean the area. This also allows the pet family to apply topical ointment or sprays more easily. He would sometimes prescribe oral antibiotics and sometimes even corticosteroids and pain relievers.

The best course of treatment is to catch them early and get to your vet promptly! If you go to the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital, you can use their website and book your appointment online! You can also order your medication, food or other pet supplies from their online store. Just go to: www.lebanonvethospital.com and click the "Appointment Request" button on the left side of the home page-it has a picture of Dr. Z and me biking! The "Online Pharmacy" button is also on the home page, but at the bottom, below the text. We hope to hear from you soon!

Peace,

Dr. Oakley