

Hi! I'm Dr. Oakley, the mascot at the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital! The snow is slowly falling as I write this article and it is the first day of spring. I may have mentioned in past articles that I am a huge fan of winter and snow, but now must say that I am very much looking forward to seeing the crocuses and daffodils! It has been a long winter!

On that note, Dr. Z wanted me to mention to everyone to be vigilant on yard cleanup. If your yard is anything like our yard, then the melting snow uncovers "surprises" at each level. Even I am shocked at how much waste my house partner and I have bombarded the Zickmann's porch with as the snow melts and exposes our work. The kids here call it a "poopapalooza," whatever that means, but I know it's not good!

Dr. Z worries about more than how it looks. He says that with the snow melt and copious amounts of animal waste, there is also the potential for parasites. He tells me that they survive the winter and that the eggs are ripe for hatching out as the weather warms. With all the melt, mud and mush around, there are fertile grounds for parasite infections. As a matter of fact, just this week, he has treated pets for hookworms and roundworms! Please keep in mind that these parasites are not only disgusting and harmful for your pets, some of them can infect humans too. So, let's clean those yards! In order to check and see if your pet has become infected, you will need to take a fresh fecal sample to your vet. Call ahead and see if they have special containers, or just use a ziplock baggie that you can drop off at your convenience!

This month Dr. Z is also thinking ahead about all of the other parasites that are coming with spring and summer. Fleas, ticks and heartworm too! Please talk to your vet about which medications are best for your pet! Back by popular demand is the injectable version. No more monthly pills for heartworm! One shot and you are protected for a full 6 months! Ask your veterinarian if this is suitable for your dog. Sorry cats, it isn't fully tested yet for felines!

Speaking of listening, we at the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital have been listening as well and hear that you want more evening hours. We know how difficult it can be to rush home from work, pick up your pet and race to the vet clinic during regular business hours! So, we are planning to extend our evening hours to 8:00 pm at least two nights a week and extended Saturday hours too! Hopefully, this will alleviate the challenge of getting an appointment after regular hours so that everyone can get in and get their pets up to date before the summer rush begins!

Hopefully, by the next issue of the Lebanon Life we will be knee deep in daffodils and able to run around without sinking in the mud!

Peace,

Dr. O