

Dr. Oakley says....

Tis the season for puppies, kittens, ticks, mosquitos and fleas! Not a great ring to it, but it makes my point. This time of year is exciting and distressing. The trees are popping green; families are bringing home new pets but the warmer days also bring out the parasites.

I've been thinking recently, that people don't give me enough credit. I may appear to be a lazy, nap-in-the-sun, bloodhound, but there is a lot going on in my head. I'm a thinker. Why just the other day, I was chatting with a twelve-year-old chicken at the clinic (yes, 12 years old) and we were discussing all that we have seen in our times. She had some amazing adventures from surviving a hawk attack, a dog attack and her most recent condition was a run in with a fence that her wing got caught up in. Well, the stories she could tell reminded me of all that I know. As a chicken, she doesn't often get too much credit in the brains department, which I could empathize with.

For instance, I'll bet you didn't know that many of our local feline friends have already had a litter of kittens and some will be ready for round two soon. This could be a summer of many litters, so please keep your eyes out for forgotten and unwanted kittens! I'll be you didn't know that I understand the benefits of spaying and neutering. How it can keep unwanted litters from happening. Did you know that in this country the leading cause of death for animals is euthanasia from being unwanted? Not sick or dangerous animals, but simply overbreeding. So if you haven't yet had your pet spayed or neutered; please do! Those who aren't spayed or neutered are at a much higher risk for reproductive cancers or infections.

I'll bet you didn't know that there are newer flea and tick products on the market! Finally, after years of struggling to find things that work consistently. Oral is the new trend, for example, Bravecto for dogs takes care of fleas AND ticks for 3 months! It's a good deal for us and good for your pocketbooks! For cats there is talk of a similar product soon and Seresto collars have been working great! Ask your veterinary office which product makes sense for you and what specials they are offering. You also may not have known that your vet is often cheaper than online pharmacies because the drug companies often offer free doses or rebates for products purchased through veterinary offices!

Lastly, I'll bet you didn't know that the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital is again offering their May/June rabies vaccination discount. If you are due for your vaccination in May or June, they will take \$10 off of the vaccination price! They would remind you to get this done earlier rather than later so that you will have time to renew your town dog license!

Oh, one more thing, that 12-year-old chicken I mentioned? She asked me to pass this along..." Eat Beef!"

Peace,

Dr. O