

Hi! I'm "Dr. Oakley", the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital dog-in-charge, and I have some new scoop!

First, the fun stuff! The Lebanon Veterinary Hospital is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year in business! The practice has been around for 35 years, and the Zickmann's have been here for 10 of those years! Dr. Z is super happy that he has been able to practice high quality medicine in such a pet friendly and pet responsible town! While this year has been particularly difficult for him and the staff at LVH, as they have had to say their final goodbyes to many of their now geriatric pet friends, they have been reminded of the decade shared with all the companions made along the way.

On the positive note, they are happy to be part of these special friend's lives and want to celebrate by giving back to the community. We are raising money for a bulletproof vest for our four-legged friends on the Willimantic Police Department. Please join us for the celebration and day of fun on October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm! There will be K9 demonstrations, agility shows, balloon artists, food, raffles, music and more! Come join us in celebrating 10 years in the community and honoring our special working K9 friends!

Ok, now on to the serious side. It has been almost a decade since Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana. The veterinary community is being warned about the increasing numbers of heartworm in our area because of this. How, you ask?

Once the rescuers were able to go in and collect loose pets, there were over 80,000 of them shipped north to be sorted and identified. There was no particular medical care plan. The goal was simply to rescue the pets, then identify and get them back to their owners as soon as possible. It was the right thing to do. However, since that time, heartworm infection has been on the rise. According to the National Heartworm Association, the Katrina area rescuers report that over 40% of pets in that region were heartworm positive, while the stray dogs were well over 80% positive for heartworm. Dogs and cats are now at higher risk than ever before and the American Heartworm Association expects that risk to continue growing as the local wildlife (fox, coyote) infection levels increase.

Dr. Z has been recording his documented findings of heartworm. He says that in all of his 25+ years of testing for heartworm, he has typically found one or two cases every couple of years. This year alone, he has found two in Lebanon! Heartworm infection is cumbersome and expensive to treat. Treatment to save the animal can run upwards of \$1000 and it is somewhat risky. There are over 20 species of mosquitoes that are known to spread heartworm, and they can carry the infected larvae for miles. It only takes one infected mosquito to bite your cat or dog for your loved one to become infected.

How about the monthly preventive medication? Who hasn't forgotten to give it on time or even forgotten for a month or more? We all have the best intentions but sometimes forget, or get busy and things get overlooked.

Now, we have ProHeart 6. It is an injection that provides your pet protection for six months! That's six months of protection, with no pills to remember. Ask your vet if ProHeart 6 is right for you. It is the longest acting heartworm preventative out there right now. It is safe, economical and best of all; your pet will be guaranteed protected for 6 months at a time!

Enjoy the outdoors; ProHeart 6 will help make it safe!!

Peace and we hope to see you October 18<sup>th</sup> here at the hospital! Check our FB page for updates on vendors that will attend!

Dr. Oakley