

*DoveLewis*  
**Canine Therapy Teams**

PORTLAND AREA CANINE THERAPY TEAMS

**February 2025  
Newsletter**

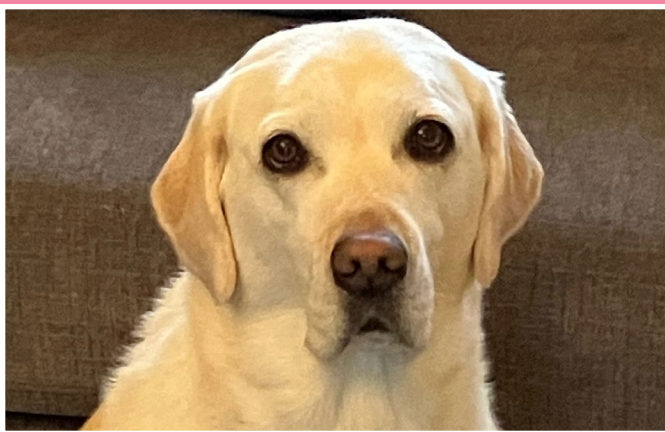
♥ Messages of Love ♥♥



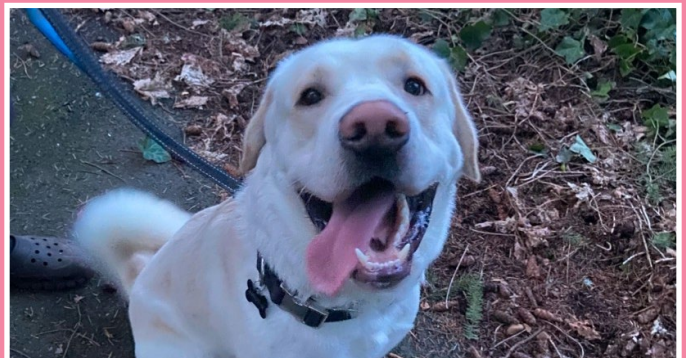
*Thank you Kyla for the joy that you've brought to so many people!*



*Athena loves her hedgehog!*



*Dear sweet Olivia, I love how you always want to snuggle with me. I will always share my apple slices with you! Love, Grace*



*This is my Akita/Lab baby Banjo! Banjo likes swimming (as long as it doesn't touch his knees), my cat (though she doesn't like him), and singing along to firetrucks.*



*Falla, I love your sweet face, your kind heart, your intuitive nature and how happy you make EVERYONE who has the pleasure of meeting you. Happy Valentine's and Birthday (February 13th) to you!*



*Happy Valentine's Day from Piccolo!*



*Houdini, you and Holly made every day better.*



*I am sharing love and joy to all those in need. Love, Bonnie*



*I love you, my Marvin!*



*I'm so happy to be in such a cool partnership with this talented pony! She would jump the moon for me and I couldn't be more grateful!*



*Jake, you short-legged goofball, I hope you enjoy your alone time while I'm at work! I miss you.*



*Love you!*



*My dearest pup crew, Toullie, Bear and Noodle! I love you so much and you are all adorable and quirky.*



*My favorite Valentines! The joy they bring never ends! Willow and Limerick*



*Presidio, Thank you for bringing so much joy and comic relief into our lives and into all those that you meet. You are the biggest goofball that everyone can't help but love.*



*Riley, Mel and Nikoda - Sweetness, Joy, and Love!*



*Love you, Rosella!*



*Rosey sharing the love at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman show!*



*Rosey, Wyatt, and Mia, - The truffling Trio*



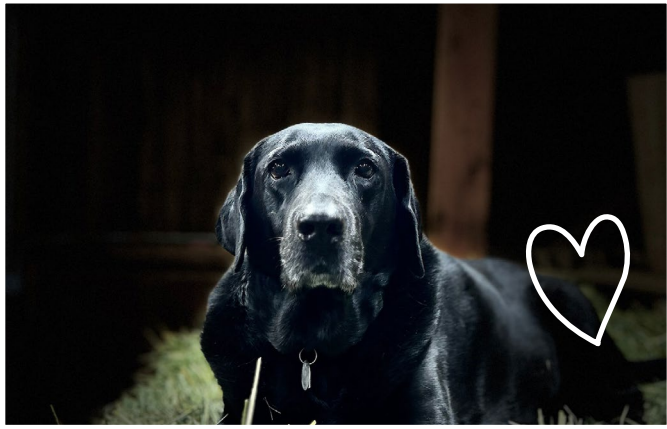
*So many teeth... But I love you, Bongo.*



*Venice and Donna have filled our lives with an immeasurable amount of love. For the past three years, we have had the pleasure of their affection and their antics. Whether they are playing wildly in the snow or sitting calmly at a therapy visit, they never disappoint conveying love to others. We are so fortunate to have both of these bonded souls that live in our hearts every day. Thank you for giving us so much happiness.*



*Thank you, Prancer, for prancing into my heart and making my life more fun.*



*We love you, fancy face!*



*To the new brothers in our home, we're so happy you love each other as much as we love you!*



*Wren, Thank you for always bringing a smile to everyone's face!*



*Winston, can't wait to go on more hikes with you in the spring! Love you so much!*

## A Day in Court with Kathy and LisaLu

I recently had the opportunity to assist as part of a therapy team with my partner, LisaLu, during a trial in a local county. This case began with charges filed three years ago. We were just one part of a complex group of people involved. However, in this case, we played a crucial role in the trial's outcome.

When we are involved in a case, we meet with the attorney, victim advocates, sometimes family members, and, of course, the victims who may be asked to testify. When we meet with victims, we often give them a small stuffed dog that serves as a



surrogate for the therapy dog if we are not allowed on the stand with them.

In some counties and cities, trial cases have allowed therapy dogs into courtrooms; we happen to be one of those teams, and this was one of those cases. In this instance, we were there to assist a witness who had endured so much trauma that both the attorney and victim advocate believed our presence would be beneficial during the testimony.

This was a jury trial, and the judge, along with both the prosecuting and defending attorneys, permitted us to be on the stand during the victim's testimony. This meant that I would be seated just behind the witness, next to the judge and the jury, while facing everyone in the courtroom. LisaLu would be lying next to the witness.

When you are on the stand with a victim, you cannot touch them, speak to them, or show any response or emotion. This case was fraught with emotion. The entire trial hinged on the witness's testimony—without it, there would be no conclusion or verdict, and the case would be dismissed. The charges included rape in the second degree, sexual abuse in the first degree, unlawful sexual penetration in the second degree, unlawful delivery of methamphetamine to a minor (two counts), unlawful delivery of a schedule II controlled substance to a minor (two counts), and recklessly endangering another person.

The witness's testimony began with simple questions, which they answered with ease. But testifying meant facing the person responsible for their trauma, forcing them to relive it all over again.

As the questioning continued, the witness repeatedly reached down, as if drawing strength, gently stroking Lisa's coat—each touch seeming to provide the courage needed to answer. Then, suddenly, something in the witness stalled. Unable to respond to further questions, a recess was called.

We stepped out of the courtroom into a quiet space for a brief timeout. I reminded the witness that LisaLu was there to comfort her, just as I was. After a short break, we returned to the courtroom to continue the testimony. We managed to get through a few more questions, but once again, the witness stalled—so frightened that the words wouldn't come out.

We all took a break for lunch and came back together to talk about how LisaLu is there to help her, give her the courage to speak, and will be there for support. I encouraged the witness to reach down, pet Lisa and take the time needed to tell the truth.

Lisa and I were scheduled for another appointment after lunch, however, everyone involved expressed that without us, they didn't believe the witness would have the courage to finish. Fortunately, we were able to stay.

When the witness returned after lunch, she was completely different. With Lisa by her side, she found the strength she needed—her voice was stronger, her presence was calmer, and she took the time to say what needed to be said.

“Thank you SO much, Kathy. I cannot thank you enough for being here and extending the day when I know you had other places to be. You and LisaLu TRULY made a difference in the victim's ability to get through her testimony. I know you saw that and felt that. Your service is so incredibly valuable. I'm so grateful to you for doing what you do and giving us your time. I know that sitting through trials like this is also difficult on you. Please take care of yourself and LisaLu.”

**RAYNEY MEISEL**, Deputy District Attorney  
Washington County District Attorney's Office

Numerous members of the witness team later shared how they could see the physical change in the witness when petting LisaLu and the strength she offered to this very fragile witness.

There are few things more rewarding than knowing we made a positive impact, helping the witness find the courage to speak while offering comfort in the process. The result? A guilty conviction on all charges. The attorney, victim advocates, and paralegal all confirmed just how crucial our presence was and how much we helped the victim. That is an incredible feeling, and I am so proud to be part of this team and organization.

Someone recently asked me, “Is that what you do? Just go around with your dog making people happy?”

I laughed and said, “Pretty much.”

Little do they know what really happens.



“My name is Christine Forbes and I am the child abuse paralegal for the Washington County District Attorney’s Office. Our team consists of five DDAs and myself and, as you can imagine, the case load consists of the worst of the worst cases involving child victimization.

Having served most of my career in the Arizona criminal courts, I am familiar with the use of therapy dogs in the court system and the value that such programs bring. Recently, we had the honor of having Kathy Wentworth and Lisa Lu come and provide support for one of our child sex abuse victims during trial. Having endured years of sexual abuse at the hands of a father-figure, this was to be the first time the child would see her abuser in court.

Lisa Lu sat at the child’s feet while she was on the witness stand and, as expected, the

victim seemed to dissociate while on the stand. However, it became apparent that having her hand on Lisa Lu, allowed this child to stay mentally and emotionally “present” in the courtroom and answer the questions necessary for a conviction to be secured.

Of course, we cannot forget Kathy. Kathy was so kind and warm to everyone involved in the case and took a special interest in the child. It was a genuine pleasure to have her here and I hope to see her more frequently. (We have invited Kathy and Lisa Lu back for the sentencing as well)

Thank you for all that you do and for allowing these 4-legged angels to be involved with these children.”

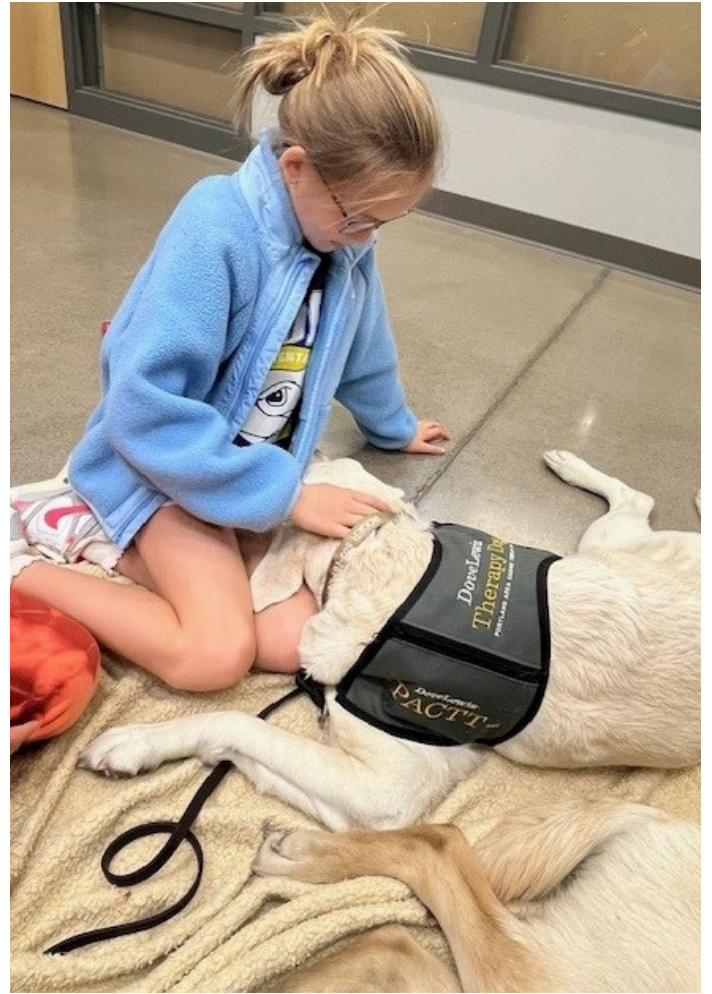
**CHRISTINE FORBES**, Child Abuse Paralegal  
Washington County District Attorney’s Office

## Comfort at School

Both of my boys have become a huge part of Hopi Elementary. Today was a regular day with the 4th graders. I told the kids they could whisper a secret to the dogs if they wanted, and it would be safe with them. Three girls did. One girl in a blue shirt spoke up. She said her important thing wasn't a secret—her home had been destroyed in the LA Palisades Fire, and her family lost everything before moving to Phoenix. She was quite matter-of-fact about it, while I tried to catch my breath. As soon as she started speaking, Roger suddenly and completely moved to be next to her. The teacher, who was there for part of it, exchanged glances with me, both of us stunned. Roger stayed by her side until their reading time was up, and then she quietly returned to her classroom. Later, I learned there are four such families with kids now at the school.

I've seen Roger do some incredibly touching things, but this one left me speechless.

**DAN & ROGER**



## Local Veterinary Professionals Visit DoveLewis' New Building

The PACTT Cuddle Corner at the DoveLewis Open House was a snuggly sensation!

Over 50 local veterinary professionals joined us to tour the new facility, meet the incredible DoveLewis team, and—best of all—soak up some serious cuteness with our cuddle superstars: LisaLu, Scooby Doo, and Rosella!







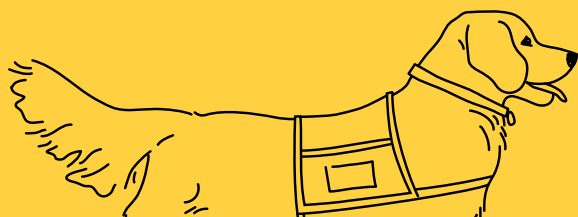
## Roses are Red, And Some of our PACTT Merchandise is Too



Check out all the PACTT merchandise available for you including polos, long sleeves, and more. [Click Here to Shop Now!](#)



**Kathy Loter**  
PACTT Program Director  
253-951-0306  
kloter@dovelewis.org



PACTT relies on the generous support of donors. If you wish to contribute, please scan the provided QR code.