DoveLewis[®]

Canine Therapy Teams

PORTLAND AREA CANINE THERAPY TEAMS • EST. 2013

October 2024 Newsletter

Portland Police Halloween Family Day

















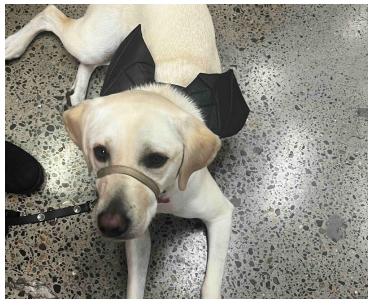


PACTT NEWSLETTER- OCTOBER 2024









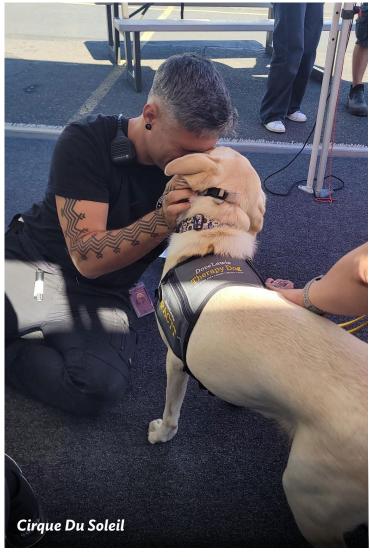
PDX Honor Flights

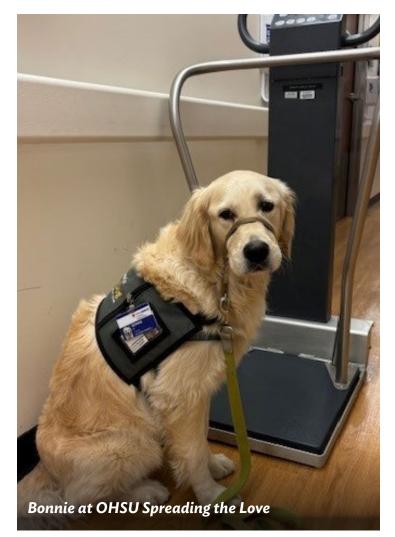




Spooooky Visits













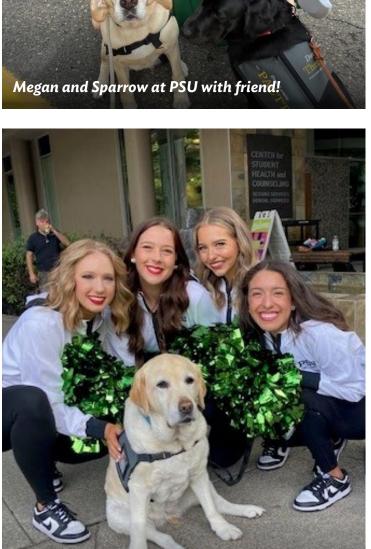




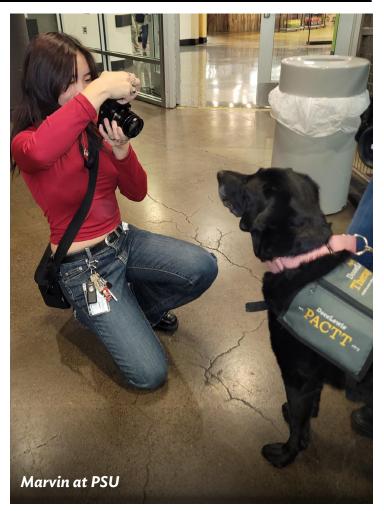


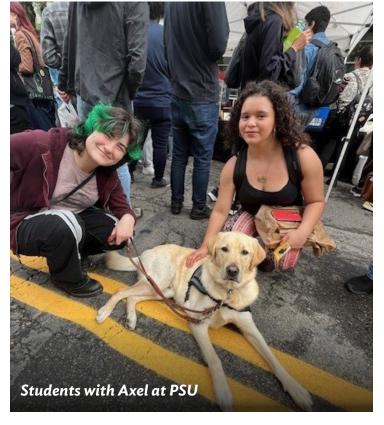






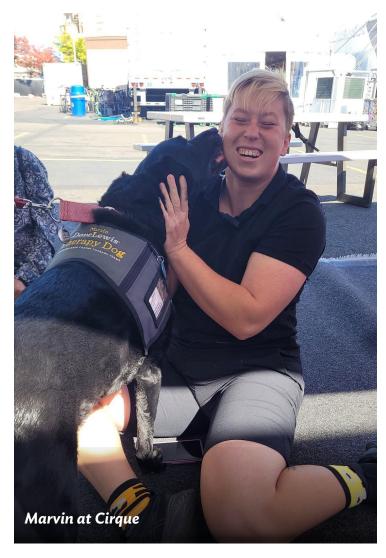
Pippa at PSU

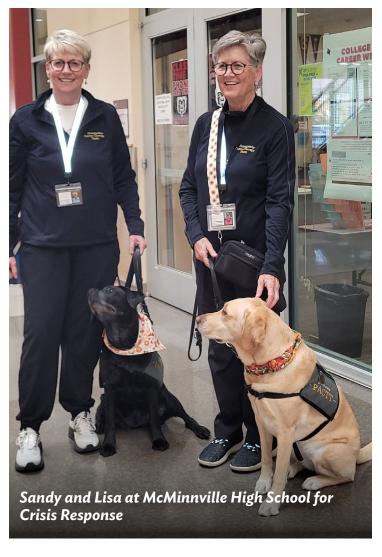












DoveLewis Staff Are Special

In late September, our sweet 7-year-old Lab/Golden Retriever mix, Olivia, started acting strangely. She was coughing, drooling excessively, acting like she might vomit, and generally seemed unwell. After a few hours, we became increasingly concerned and decided to take her to a vet. Our Vancouver vet was closed for the day, so we needed to find an alternative. Since Olivia is a PACTT dog, we knew she would be welcomed at DoveLewis and cared for by the BEST!

We arrived around 9:30 p.m. on a Monday night and walked into a very busy lobby. A calm and friendly staff member greeted us, checking us in with a level of professionalism that immediately put us at ease. At that moment, we felt that, however long the wait and whatever was happening in the reception area, all would be okay because Olivia was in the best hands. Although we did have a long wait, we were deeply moved by what we witnessed.

Throughout the night, pet owners arrived with animals who would not be returning home. Many left hours later, completely wrecked. Around midnight, an animal rescue worker came in with two kittens who had been rescued from a transient campfire—singed by flames but hopefully okay, she said. Hours later, a woman arrived carrying a cat she had accidentally hit with her car and brought in for treatment. The cat had bawled all the way there except for the last 10 minutes, which



made her worry it had died in the car. A staff member gently took the cat for evaluation and, sadly, later confirmed that the cat had passed. The woman asked if staff could locate a microchip so she could inform the owner. Though no chip was found, we overheard staff say they would take photos and do their best to help spread the word. It was quite a scene to witness.

Between the time we arrived and when we left, some 6-7 hours later, we witnessed countless interactions between pet owners and staff members. These interactions were, on the surface, routine but what we saw, with our eyes and in our hearts, was not routine at all. I'm not sure how to convey the gentleness, the kindness, the caring, and the patience we experienced and witnessed.

People don't come to DoveLewis at 1 a.m. on a Monday night because they're okay; they come because their pets are not okay. They are worried sick, exhausted, and often frightened—just like their pets. And yet, in the midst of all that worry and exhaustion, everyone manages to hold it together. One woman arrived with a very scared and hurt dog, lying beside it on the floor as the dog rested under a quilt for hours. Staff let them be, checking in often, and eventually led them back to a room where she continued to comfort her hurting pup.

I sat in that space and thought these people who work here are amazing and I wish I could hug every one of them, thank them and tell them over and over again how special and unique they are. I think they probably don't know what they look like as they go about their daily work but to me, they look like hope and love and grace, and I am grateful to have had a chance to spend a night watching DoveLewis staff in action

Happily, our sweet Olivia was successfully treated and sent home. She spent the following day resting and being pampered—we feel incredibly lucky. Thank you to the DoveLewis team—each of you is special. Please don't forget that.





DoveLewis Pet Loss Support Program

The loss of a pet can be devastating. For many, this is a loss not only of a beloved companion animal but of a best friend and cherished family member. We share our lives, dreams, homes, and affections with our companions. They touch our lives deeply and are deserving of our grief. Grieving a beloved pet is a natural and personal process that deserves expression and acknowledgment.

The DoveLewis Pet Loss Support Program offers free monthly support group meetings, providing a comforting space for reflection, sharing, listening, and healing at your own pace.



Upcoming Meetings

November

Thursday, November 7 from 12-1:30pm (In-Person Meeting) Thursday, November 14 from 6:30-8pm (Virtual Meeting) Tuesday, November 19 from 6:30-8pm (In-Person Meeting) Thursday, November 21 from 5-6:30pm (Virtual Meeting)

December

Thursday, December 5 from 12-1:30pm (In-Person Meeting) Thursday, December 12 from 6:30-8pm (Virtual Meeting) Tuesday, December 17 from 6:30-8pm (In-Person Meeting) Thursday, December 19 from 5-6:30pm (Virtual Meeting)





Scan the QR Code to Learn More

Provide Support for Fellow Animal

We are grateful for the contributions from generous donors who make it possible for the Pet Loss Support Program to offer its services to our community of loving families. If it serves you, we welcome you to donate in honor of your beloved companion and to continue to make this space available in the future.



Scan the QR Code to Donate



Additional Pet Loss Support Offerings

Grief deserves to be witnessed, and it needs expression. Sharing and giving voice to experiences of profound love and loss through our Pet Loss Support Groups is one way people may find that expression. And for some, it may serve them to find expression by memorializing their beloved companions creatively through art or writing.

Memorial Art Workshop: Sunday, November 10 from 3-4:30pm

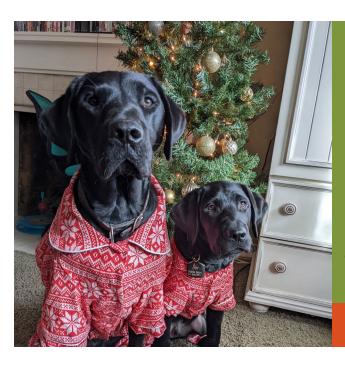
Past projects have included memorial candles, picture frames, pendants, and flower pots.



Virtual Memorial Writing Workshop: Sunday,

December 8 from 3-5pm

In partnership with Write Around Portland.



'Tis the Season for Holiday Photos!

It's back! Time to capture those festive moments and enter the PACTT Holiday Photo Contest! Submit your best shots by December 6, and remember, we welcome photos from all holidays! Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges from DoveLewis.



Click Here to Submit Photos



Email your submission(s) to kloter@dovelewis.org or mlaird@dovelewis.org if you have trouble attaching photos in the form.



Virtual Caregiver Support Group

Caring for a beloved companion animal who has special needs or a life-limiting illness is an act of love and can come with challenges and frustrations. While we lovingly provide care to our cherished companions, it can also be a confusing, tiring, overwhelming, and isolating experience. The Caregiver Support Group is a space where people can connect to learn about topics relevant to caring for a companion, as well as yourself, and to find support in community with others.

Free Monthly Meetings on Zoom. Visit dovelewis.org to register or scan the QR code.







Explore our PACTT merchandise collection, including the newly added menswear and hat, available for purchase online.

Click Here to Shop Now!



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