

Media Release

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DoveLewis

ANIMALS SPEAK TO US.



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Service of Remembrance Helps Grieving Pet Owners

Grieving the loss of a loved one is always a difficult journey, but it can become especially painful during the holiday season. Dignified Pet Services, in partnership with the DoveLewis Pet Loss Support Program, presents the annual Service of Remembrance December 1. Together, surrounded by others who understand this bond, we will light candles, hear inspirational stories and celebrate the lives of those who are no longer with us.

The public is invited and the event is free.

Event Details:

Thursday, December 1st, 7:00PM

The Old Church

1422 SW 11th at Columbia

DoveLewis' certified grief counselor and the founder of the Pet Loss Support Program offers these tips to people grieving over the holidays:

- Slow down: Give up expectations of yourself or others to have the "perfect Holiday."
- Set aside time to think about your beloved companion: Allow your grief and give it expression.
- Create a special holiday ritual to remember your loved one. For example, make a donation to a favorite charity in the pet's memory, decorate a wreath with pictures and favorite toys or create a special ornament honoring him or her.
- Embrace your memories and find comfort in them. This can be bittersweet – our memories often bring us to both tears and laughter, but they are what heal us.
- Don't feel guilty if you are enjoying yourself. It's not disrespectful to the memory of your loved one. Your pet would be happy to know you are enjoying yourself.

[Dignified Pet Services](#) is dedicated to providing high quality after care for pet companions. We believe that people who lose a pet companion deserve the same care and compassion as those who experience a human loss. We promise to take the best possible care of the companion you've lost and the people who have shared in that life.

The [DoveLewis Pet Loss Support Program](#) has offered a safe, nurturing place for bereaved pet owners to grieve since 1986. The program offers five free support group sessions every month. The director and founder of the program, Enid Traisman, MSW, CT, CFS, facilitates each group and maintains our 24-hour pet loss message line. This free community service program is one of the oldest in the United States and is the only one of its kind serving the Northwest.

DoveLewis is Portland's non-profit 24-Hour Emergency and ICU Animal Hospital, offering advanced veterinary care. DoveLewis also shares several 100% donor funded programs with the community including one of America's largest volunteer based animal blood banks, a partnership with Delta Society's animal assisted therapy program, a nationally recognized pet loss support program offering four free group therapy sessions each month, 24-hour stabilizing care for lost, stray and wild animals and financial assistance for qualifying low income families and abused animals.