

Media Release

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DoveLewis



EVENT DATE:

Thursday, March 9TH, 2006 6:00PM – 9:00PM
The Acadian Ballroom, 1829 NE Alberta, Portland
Tickets available online at www.dovelewis.org

Boutiques Unleashed! Fashion for Both Ends of the Leash

DoveLewis celebrates the 20th anniversary of its Pet Loss Support program with a human-canine fashion show! Watch as models from some of Portland's hottest boutiques like Ella's, Mimi and Lena's and Bee & Thistle pair up with premiere pet stores like Lexi Dog, Furever Pets and The Pearl Retriever as they strut their stuff together on the runway. Emcees Daria O'Neill and Byron Beck have some surprises of their own (**who wouldn't like to see Byron Beck in a DOG COSTUME!?**)

DoveLewis' Pet Loss Support Program began in 1986 when its founder, Enid Traisman, MSW launched the idea in Portland. At the time, Enid was working as a counselor with grieving parents in a neo-natal unit. When she read about a similar program starting in New York City, she approached DoveLewis with her proposal. The rest is history. The program has grown to offer five free group therapy sessions each month and a 24-hour message line for anyone who has lost or is losing a pet. It also provides a remembrance journal to every pet owner whose pet dies at DoveLewis. Enid has set a standard around the country as a pioneer in the field of pet bereavement and is striving to change the negative stigma surrounding the grief of a companion animal. Enid also works with DoveLewis' medical staff offering compassion fatigue workshops, a concept gaining recent acceptance in the world of human emergency hospital workers.

"People often ask me how I manage so much grief and sadness facilitating the support groups. I tell them that the grief people are experiencing is a direct reflection of the love they shared with their pet. I am lucky; in fact it is an honor to work with the cream of the crop of animal lovers. The people who attend the DoveLewis support groups are the people who experienced the human-animal bond in every sense," says Enid Traisman, MSW. "That's how we came up with this event. A human-canine fashion show is a whimsical celebration of just how bonded so many of us are with our pets."

All proceeds from the Boutiques Unleashed auction and fashion show benefit the Pet Loss Support program.

Founded in 1973 as a non-profit organization, DoveLewis 24 Hour Emergency and ICU hospital treats nearly 15,000 animals each year and is supported by treatment fees and donations. The hospital is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in NW Portland, as well as evenings and weekends at Plaza 205. Celebrating the human-animal bond, DoveLewis is known for its unique community service programs including the Stray Animal and Wildlife Program, Blood Bank, Animal Assisted Therapy and Education, and Pet Loss Support.