

Media Release

Contact: Tiffini Mueller
Director of Marketing & Development
1945 NW Pettygrove, Portland, OR 97209

Direct: 503.535.3381

Cell: 503.341.2740

tmueller@dovewewis.org

DoveLewis



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DoveLewis: First in Northwest to Offer Life-Saving Procedure

Patients at DoveLewis with acute kidney failure will now have more of a fighting chance thanks to technology new to veterinary medicine. DoveLewis is proud to be the first veterinary hospital in the Northwest to offer continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT), also known as short-term hemodialysis, for the management of acute kidney failure. This procedure will give patients who overdose on drugs or ingest deadly toxins, like raisins, and almost always-deadly anti-freeze a chance of survival they've never had before. "It may be the lifeline they need when their kidneys fail acutely and traditional medical management is not helping. Having this machine available at DoveLewis will give our medical staff the best tool possible to save their lives or at the least, prevent organ damage and allow damaged kidneys a chance to heal," says Alicia Faggella, DVM DACVECC, DoveLewis Critical Care Director.

CRRT is a process in which blood is continuously and slowly extracted, filtered and replaced in an effort to remove toxins from the blood stream. It more closely emulates normal kidney function, removes blood more efficiently and effectively, and has fewer complications in comparison to alternative treatments.

Causes of acute kidney failure include:

- Ingestion of toxins like anti-freeze, grapes & raisins, lilies
- Overdoses and accidental ingestion of common household drugs
- Trauma
- Severe systemic infection
- Removal of excess fluid from a patient's body when medicines fail

In the past and sometimes as a preliminary measure, acute kidney failures are treated with fluids and other medications. When there is no response to this therapy, our doctors can now use CRRT. "There are fewer than a dozen veterinary hospitals across the country that offer this service," says Ron Morgan, DoveLewis Executive Director. "As we have demonstrated throughout our 35-year history DoveLewis is at the forefront of veterinary medicine. Having the CRRT is just one more piece of evidence that DoveLewis remains a pioneer in our field."

DoveLewis is Portland's 24-Hour Emergency and ICU Animal Hospital, offering advanced veterinary care in a state-of-the-art facility in Northwest Portland. DoveLewis also shares several 100% donor-funded programs with the community including one of America's largest volunteer-based animal blood banks, an award-winning animal assisted therapy program, a nationally recognized pet loss support program offering five free group therapy sessions each month, 24-hour stabilizing care for lost, stray and wild animals and financial assistance for low income families and owners of abused pets.