

## Media Release

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**DoveLewis**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** – June 18, 2006

## Fire Erupts at DoveLewis NW Hospital

At about 1:30 this afternoon, a fire began inside the commercial laundry dryer at DoveLewis' NW hospital. Our medical staff tried to put it out with a standard fire extinguisher, but it was no match for the flames. Smoke billowed from the laundry room, filling the hospital, including the emergency treatment area and the lobby. Within two minutes our medical staff transferred all of the patients to office spaces and a conference room in the administrative building next door. Two patients were on oxygen therapy so we rushed them to our transport van, which is outfitted with a portable oxygen unit. No patients or members of our staff were injured.

All of the patients who still needed treatment, (about 20 dogs, cats and a dove) were transferred to our hospital in Plaza 205 near Mall 205 in SE Portland. In the meantime, DoveLewis staff and Kennedy Restoration will be working throughout the night in our NW hospital to clean, sterilize and get rid of the smoke smell. We hope to return to business as usual in our NW hospital Monday mid-morning. In the meantime, we are asking anyone with an animal emergency to go to DoveLewis SE, 10564 SE Washington Street.

Ironically, it is one month to the day that DoveLewis will check in its first patient at the brand new hospital across the street from the current NW location. Our public grand opening celebration for the new hospital is Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm. We plan to transfer current patients to the new hospital and open for business there Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

I will update you on the exact time we will open tomorrow morning as soon as I have a good idea of how the clean up is going.

**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.**