

## Media Release

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

Direct: 503.535.3381

Cell: 503.341.2740

[tmueller@dovelewis.org](mailto:tmueller@dovelewis.org)

**DoveLewis**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 3, 2011**

## Tough Economy Causes Closure of Oregon Coast Clinic

DoveLewis will close the Animal Emergency & Urgent Care clinic in Lincoln City on October 31, 2011. We opened the clinic in March of 2010 to serve the animal emergency needs of Central Coast residents and tourists. "Most experts predicted the economy was going to turn around more quickly than it has. The slower than expected recovery, especially on the Oregon Coast, changed the conditions that we felt would allow us to successfully help the veterinarians and pet owners on the coast receive the type of dedicated emergency care they long deserved," said DoveLewis CEO Ron Morgan. "We are all very disappointed we were not successful, and we did everything we could to make this work, but the compounding losses at this clinic were having too great an impact on the financial results of our overall business," Morgan said.

The continued economic downturn forced some local veterinarians to continue to respond to their own emergencies as opposed to referring them to DoveLewis. While understandable, that combination with the economic woes proved too much to overcome. All of this resulted in lower patient numbers, less medical revenue and fewer funds raised for community programs than we projected. At its current pace, DoveLewis management projected losses of \$300,000 by the end of the fiscal year (June, 2012) if it remained open, in addition to the start-up costs and year-one losses we already incurred.

"We all had a personal investment in making this clinic work. The Central Oregon Coast is one of the only regions in the state without dedicated veterinary emergency care. We got through two summer seasons to gauge how the economy was going but we couldn't afford another long winter slowdown," Morgan added. "We greatly appreciate the partnerships we have developed on the Coast with veterinarians, business owners and pet owners. If there were any way to extend the clinic's operations we would have."

DoveLewis Animal Emergency & Urgent Care was the only after-hours emergency facility in the area. The clinic operated Thursday evening to Friday morning, Friday evening through Monday morning, and was open 24-hours all major holidays. Since opening, the clinic has treated just over 1,000 animals.

All funds raised for the coast clinic were invested in our clinic on the coast, including helping cover operational costs and emergency treatment of animals in low-income families in the area.

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.