



Media Release

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DoveLewis joins effort to spay and neuter dogs for low-income families

150 dogs currently on wait list at Multnomah County Animal Services

In conjunction with [Multnomah County Animal Services](#) (MCAS) and [Portland Animal Welfare Team](#), DoveLewis will make room in its hospital to spay or neuter up to 20 PAW Team dogs at no-cost, which are owned by low-income and homeless families on December 1, 2010.

In addition to the 50–60 spay/neuter surgeries MCAS performs per week, another eight operations are performed for PAW Team dogs at the shelter in Troutdale. However, the back log was so huge, additional partners were urgently needed. “With 150 dogs on the list, we had to move faster,” says John Rowton, MCAS shelter manager. “With DoveLewis jumping on board, we are now able to spay and neuter many more dogs for families in need.” MCAS has plenty of surgery supplies, but does not have the capacity to perform more surgeries in their small operating room.

Where: DoveLewis,
1945 NW Pettygrove,
Portland

When: December 1
Check in: 7:30AM
Pick up: 3:00PM

“Wednesdays are typically our slowest days in the ER, so we thought we could clear out some room, create some medical protocols, recruit some volunteers, and make it work,” says DoveLewis CEO Ron Morgan. In the meantime, [Pixie Project](#) gathered up enough kennels and crates for the dogs to safely recover and lined up a veterinarian to donate his time. Dr. Randy Tesar from Animal Medical Clinic in Southwest Portland had offered to donate some spays and neuters to Pixie Project pets in the past. He agreed to be a part of this effort. One of DoveLewis’ veterinary interns, Dr. Nikki Graf, also volunteered her time. We did the trial run November 17th and it was a huge success. A total of 18 dogs were spayed and neutered.

But it will take several more spay/neuter surgery marathons to catch up to the back log, which continues to grow every day. The next clinic is set for December 1. Everyone involved is committed to doing what they can to address this immediate and critical need. “What a great example of several animal welfare agencies working together to find a solution when resources are scarce,” says Morgan. “Everyone really pitched in and the volunteers were thrilled to be a part of it.”

Future spay and neuter events for PAW Team dogs have not yet been scheduled, but all four organizations are committed to doing everything possible to clear the backlog. All appointments are made through the PAW Team, using their criteria for eligibility.