



DoveLewis

#1 CHOICE FOR ANIMAL EMERGENCIES



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—June 2, 2010

[Click here for this and all other DoveLewis news releases](#)

Partnership Expands Reach of Animal Assisted Therapy in Portland

DoveLewis and Delta Society are proud to announce a partnership that will create one of the largest and strongest local animal-assisted therapy programs in the country. As of July 1, the DoveLewis Animal Assisted Therapy & Education (DLAATE) program will become a part of Delta Society's Pet Partners program.

The partnership is aimed at consolidating resources and creating a much stronger and efficient animal-assisted therapy program in the Portland area. The DLAATE program, which started in 1987, has been an affiliate of the Delta Society Pet Partners program. Many DLAATE volunteer teams are also dual registered as Delta Society Pet Partners. Delta Society was poised to grow its presence in Portland so the timing of joining forces made sense. "The community has much more to gain from our organizations working together than going it alone," says Ron Morgan, DoveLewis CEO. "This move by our Board of Directors follows a national pattern of non-profits partnering to maximize limited resources and more acutely focus on their objectives. Our core mission has always been emergency veterinary medicine. It no longer makes sense to run our own program and duplicate Delta Society's mission. By partnering with the internationally recognized organization, there will be greater resources to bring animal-assisted therapy services to more people in our community."

DoveLewis will direct significant financial resources to the partnership, providing scholarships for roughly 150 animal-assisted therapy teams, which includes all current DLAATE teams who opt-in to the Delta Society Pet Partners program. As a result of this merge, Delta Society will increase local staffing and support for Portland area teams. The money DoveLewis saves as a result of the merger will go directly into other community programs, such as the **Velvet Assistance Fund** for qualifying low-income families in a medical emergency.

"We are very excited about this next stage in our partnership with DoveLewis," comments Lawrence J. Norvell, President & CEO of Delta Society. "By consolidating our operations, we anticipate we will be better able to achieve our mutual goal of reaching more people in need of the physical and emotional benefits that result from a therapy animal (Pet Partners) visit. With the continued support of DoveLewis, we envision significant growth in the number of people who will benefit from this program in the coming years."

>>[Click HERE to learn more about DoveLewis](#)

>>[Click HERE to learn more about Delta Society](#)