



Media Release

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DoveLewis Responds to Incomplete Oregonian Article

The staff of DoveLewis is dismayed at this morning's Oregonian article, "Dog beaten on walk with owner," by reporter John Snell. According to police, Shiloh, a German Shepherd was attacked by a man who is now in police custody. Shiloh's owners, Eva and Siegfried Berg, took her to DoveLewis. Mr. Snell's article states that DoveLewis medical staff sent Shiloh home without pain medication. This is NOT true. Mr. Snell failed to contact DoveLewis for facts on the case.

When our doctor met Shiloh, she discovered Shiloh had a bloody nose and broken tooth. She explained to the Bergs what Shiloh needed from us medically and how much that would cost. The Bergs agreed to go ahead with the treatment. We gave Shiloh a full examination, took x-rays, cleaned her wounds and gave her an injection of pain medication and subsequent oral pain medication to keep her comfortable until she could see her regular veterinarian. Shiloh was stable, had no broken bones and did not require emergency surgery or overnight stay. When it was time to check out, the Bergs told us they were not able to pay the bill. We advised them to apply for CareCredit, a national financial aid program, but they did not qualify. It is against our policy to release medications without payment. The dose of pain medication Shiloh received at DoveLewis would keep her comfortable for 24 hours. That would give the Bergs enough time to get to their regular veterinarian, which was what they told us they wanted to do. As is our policy, DoveLewis faxed a case summary to Shiloh's regular veterinarian detailing what had happened and explaining what type of treatment and medication we had given her. It is also our policy not send home drugs that have not been purchased. The Bergs' bill is still outstanding.

"We treat 15,000 animals a year and a large portion of their owners are financially constrained. We do the best we can to treat all of our patients and keep them stable and comfortable," says Ron Morgan, Executive Director. "The Bergs were treated with respect the entire time they were here and Shiloh received excellent care while she was at DoveLewis even though her owners were unable to afford the care."

We are outraged that someone would choose to abuse any animal; we see it all too often and we understand the pain and heartbreak that Shiloh's family must be going through. Our medical staff is affected by these cases as well and we are glad that the police have made an arrest.

As was arranged with the Bergs, Shiloh's pain medication and x-rays are waiting at our main hospital for them to pick up.

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.