

Media Release

Contact: Tiffini Mueller
Marketing & Public Relations
DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital
1984 NW Pettygrove, Portland, OR 97209
(503) 535-3391, ext. 40
Cell: 503.341.2740
tmueller@dovelewis.org

DoveLewis



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: – March 1st, 2006

Dog Impaled by Stick Makes Miraculous Recovery

Saturday, February 25th, Tika the 4 ½ year old yellow lab was playing fetch with Travis, one of her owners, in their usual play spot. One of the times she ran for the ball, Travis heard her yelp. He rushed over to her and discovered she had been impaled by a 14 inch long, 2 centimeter diameter stick! It pierced her underarm, went through her body, punctured a lung and grazed her stomach, small intestine and pancreas. Travis did exactly the right thing in this situation. He left the stick alone and immediately drove Tika to DoveLewis.

At DoveLewis, Tika went through two surgeries – one focused on the chest, the other focused on the abdomen. Doctors found that the stick had amazingly missed her vital organs and they were able to remove the stick completely without complications. Even more amazing is Tika's post-operative recovery. She was able to go home late Monday night, just over 48 hours after the accident!

Media Availability

Thursday March 2nd, 2006

10:00am: DoveLewis Main Hospital, 1984 NW Pettygrove

Interview: DoveLewis Medical Director Andrea Oncken, DVM DACVECC
Andrea performed Tika's surgery. She can speak directly about the case and explain why Travis did the right thing.

Visuals: DoveLewis emergency room and surgery suite

2:00pm: Tika's home near NW 185th in the Bethany neighborhood

Interviews: Owners Brenda Renning and her adult son Travis, the "hero"

Visuals: Recovering Tika, and **THE STICK!**

Call Brenda on her cell phone to get directions and to let her know if you're coming: 503.201.6506.

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.