

*DoveLewis*  
**Canine Therapy Teams**  
PORTLAND AREA CANINE THERAPY TEAMS

**March 2023  
Newsletter**

**Good Luck  
Charms at PDX**



*Cuddles from Donna, Jericho, and Stella*



*Stella Gives the Best Hugs*



*Teams with TSA*



*Walt with all the pups*





## Deciding for Himself

We were told at our adoption meeting, “Houdini likes to decide for himself”, following his career change at Guide Dogs for the Blind. We’ve since observed this as an independent streak that occasionally confounds expectations on therapy dog visits. He is a calm and mellow yellow, so reserved that people will often mistake him for a much older dog: “He’s only 5? When will my lab calm down?!” He approaches children with tail wagging and ears slightly lifted and cupped in what I call his “ear smile”. He is gentle and moves slowly with people using wheelchairs and walking aids. He reads the emotional temperature and returns effusive greetings and “I love dogs!” squeals with enthusiasm.

More reserved greetings are mirrored with a similar demeanor: a tentative pat on the head and a soft “hello” are sometimes met with a turn of his head that the greeter considers indifference, they will say, “He doesn’t like me as much”, after observing his warmer response to their friend. I don’t know how to explain the difference in response when Houdini decides for himself that one person gets wiggles and wags and the other merely a dignified, if not aloof, regard. I resist the urge to try to explain; he is not unfriendly, but he

is not a circus performer, and he sometimes dispenses bonhomie in measured doses.

We recently were walking down the hallway at the hospital and passed a visitor holding a phone to her ear. I smiled and nodded as we passed, not expecting to engage with someone on a call, when she suddenly put her phone down and asked, “Is that a therapy dog? Can I pet him?” As we turn toward her, she explains she just lost a dear friend and really needs a dog right now. The emotion is plain on her face, as she squats with her back braced against the wall. Houdini was nearly finished with our tour, and I hoped he was not running low on therapy dog magic. He immediately fell into her embrace and placed his head on her chest. He read her emotions and returned it in kind. Houdini decided for himself very well.

- Colleen and Houdini



*Houdini at the PACTT Appreciation Event*



## Busy Month of Visits



Beavers Softball with Anta



B-SOBR with Rosella



Kisses from Lisa at the Energy Conference



Dolly and Lisa Saying Hi at the Energy Conference



Rogers Loves the Story at Read to a Dog





*Rosella Showing off her Toy at B-SOBR*



*Big Hugs for Roger at Read to a Dog*

## Wet Nose Soirée

**Is Right Around the Corner!**

*Saturday, April 22/ 5:30pm-9:30pm*

*Hyatt Regency | 375 NE Holladay St, Portland, OR 97232*

Help us toast 50 years of serving pets and their people. This year's Wet Nose Soirée will feature an online silent auction, a live auction, wine-tasting, a fabulous dinner, and special animal guests!

**Quick! Registration Closes April 14**



## Spring Into Some New Merchandise!



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