



When Justice Needs a Little Extra Heart... It Gets a Wagging Tail



The courts have gone to the dogs—and in doing so, they’ve made room for something powerful: comfort, connection, and quiet courage. During Crime Victim Rights Week, Child Abuse Awareness Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, we recognized the extraordinary role these dogs play in supporting victims and standing beside them through some of life’s hardest moments.

This growing impact has also been highlighted by [KXL Radio](#), which recently featured how our teams are helping prosecutors and victims navigate tough cases.

A nudge of a nose, a steady presence at their side, these simple acts can help someone find the strength to keep going. Our community partners see it every day: courage grows a little stronger, voices become a little steadier, and no one feels quite as alone. For that, we are endlessly grateful. Their work may come with wagging tails, but its impact runs deep. We are so thankful for our community partners who see, support, and share in this meaningful mission.



Judge Lavin, Multnomah County Mock Trial



Rosey’s first visit to Washington County Court

“I want to extend a big thank you to LisaLu, who was my hero during a trial in March. Judges are often concerned about the effects of vicarious trauma on jurors who serve for trials involving violent, graphic, or sensitive evidence. Jurors carry the burden on behalf of the public of observing, evaluating, and making important decisions about some very disturbing testimony and evidence. Unlike the professionals in the justice system, jurors are often unprepared for the experience. The impact of an emotionally charged proceeding on jurors is exacerbated by the fact that they are prohibited from discussing the trial with anyone, including their friends, family, or even fellow jurors until the trial is over.

This was the situation in March, after hours of emotional testimony by a sexual assault victim, the jury went out for a break, and I knew they were rattled. That is when my staff remembered that the therapy dogs are in our courthouse on Thursdays! LisaLu came to the rescue. LisaLu first came through the courtroom to deliver some levity to the lawyers as they assembled to continue trial. With the parties’ consent, LisaLu

headed back to the jury room, where she was warmly received by jurors whose bottled-up emotions were released as they poured affection on LisaLu. Some jurors were moved to tears by the relief she delivered. LisaLu then gave me a comforting snuggle before we resumed trial. After the verdict the following week, when I excused and thanked the jurors, each one was clutching their LisaLu trading card, still singing her praises and thanking the court for giving them the gift of canine therapy.

One cannot overstate the value of the service provided by the Canine Therapy Teams. Everyone who works in the courthouse is exposed daily to conflict, tension, trauma, and grief. Whether it’s a scheduled visit, or a random sighting, therapy dogs provide relief and joy to the harried occupants of the building. The Canine Therapy Teams serve the highest calling for dogs and humans – relieving suffering – and they always leave the courthouse a better place than they found it.”

**KELLY SKYE, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
MULTNOMAH COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**



“DoveLewis therapy dogs bring calm and love into difficult spaces—supporting our attorneys, staff, and grand jurors as they carry heavy responsibilities, and offering comfort and reassurance to victims when they need it most. Their impact is then multiplied when they serve throughout the courthouse helping people navigate through the justice system to become healthy members of our community.”

NATHAN VASQUEZ, MULTNOMAH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Multnomah County DA Nathan Vasquez



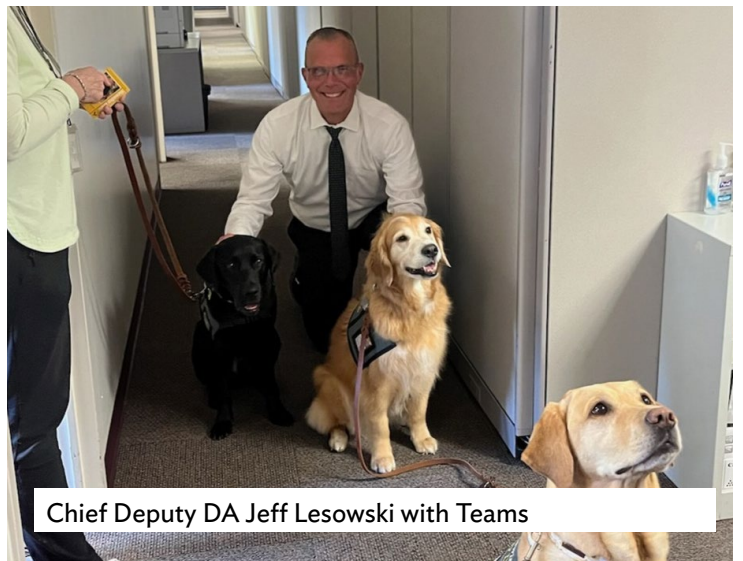
Washington County DA Kevin Barton and LisaLu, Rosella and Scooby Doo

“The Dove Lewis canine therapy teams lift our spirits when they come to visit the Washington County DA’s Office. The work we do can be difficult and draining, but the wag of a tail and a friendly lick from Tater Tot, Scooby Doo, Rosie, or LisaLu truly brightens the day and brings a smile to every face!”

KEVIN BARTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

“We are so appreciative of the volunteers from DoveLewis and their selfless dedication to serving the community and crime victims. Not only do the teams’ support crime victims through challenging times, but they also lift the spirits of the Washington County DA’s Office employees. We love Wagging Wellness Wednesdays in Washington County.”

DDA ALLISON BROWN, WASHINGTON COUNTY DA’S OFFICE



Chief Deputy DA Jeff Lesowski with Teams

“The science is clear—time with a canine therapy team measurably reduces stress hormones, lowers blood pressure, and lifts mood. For officers and staff at PPB absorbing the weight of this work every day, that’s not a luxury, it’s a welcome resource. When we invest in the wellbeing of the people doing this work, we invest in the community they serve. We at PPB are grateful for what you do!”

CHIEF BOB DAY, PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU



Portland Police Chief Day



Portland Police and Pippa

“What began as a partnership supporting a single specialty unit at the Portland Police Bureau has grown, over the past six years, into routine support for several of our specialty units and police precincts. The teams have also become a familiar fixture at PPB family events.

The support the PACTT teams provide really stands out when our officers and professional staff are navigating the aftermath of critical events or other especially difficult calls for service.

The warm distraction the dogs and their handlers provide is very welcome and very appreciated during those challenging times, and the dedication behind it doesn’t go unnoticed. We are very fortunate to have the partnership with PACTT and the selfless commitment of the dogs and their handlers.”

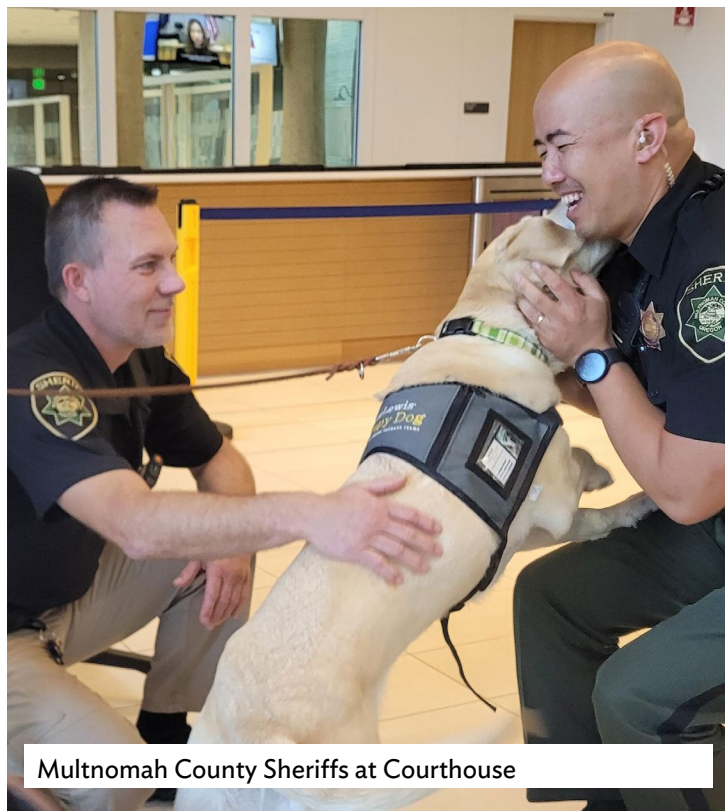
**LT CASEY HETTMAN,
PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU**



Judge Moawad and furry friends

“I am very excited to partner with DoveLewis and its Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams. Working in public safety, particularly in the largest sheriff’s office in Oregon, is a highly demanding job, no matter where you work within our organization. The Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office is always looking for new ways to support our employees’ wellbeing and overall health. DoveLewis is an established community organization that can help our employees process the daily and unexpected stress that can originate doing this important public safety work.”

**SHERIFF NICOLE MORRISEY O’DONNELL,
MULTNOMAH COUNTY SHERIFF**



Multnomah County Sheriffs at Courthouse



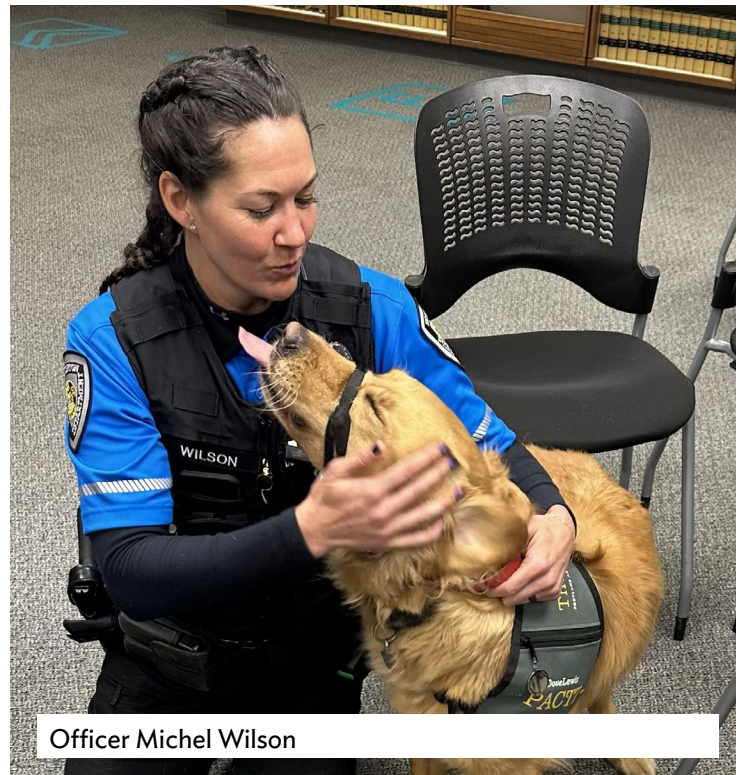
Rosella Beaverton B-SOBR

“In my 25 years of criminal justice work, now more than ever, our defendants, victims of crimes and professionals who serve them are experiencing trauma and vicarious trauma at alarming rates. Having regular visits by DoveLewis therapy dogs in court reduces anxiety, stress and the physical damage those conditions cause to our bodies and minds. Many of our defendants have little outside support or opportunities to be acknowledged. A simple pet of an animal who gives unconditional love is one way people can start to rebuild trust and confidence that they are supported by their community.”

**JUDGE JULIET BRITTON,
PRESIDING JUDGE, BEAVERTON
MUNICIPAL COURT**

“The PACTT doggies add so much joy to our courtroom. The dogs truly reduce stress and anxiety for those individuals coming to court check-ins with the judge, especially if it’s their first time. It’s so incredible how the dogs can sense who is struggling and will lay at their feet. The court staff and law enforcement also really enjoy interacting with the dogs. In a world that can be fast paced and emotionally draining, even just a small pet or a nose kiss can make the world of difference. BSOBR is lucky to have PACTT as part of our treatment court team!”

OFFICER MICHEL WILSON, BEAVERTON POLICE, BSOBR POLICE LIAISON



Officer Michel Wilson

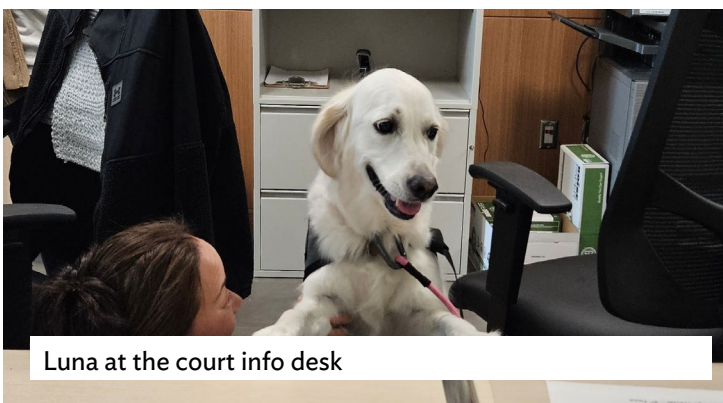


Teams with Clackamas County DA John Wentworth

“The DoveLewis therapy dogs were so important to the Oregon Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Summit this year. The information the attendees digest at this conference is often very emotionally challenging and the dogs were so helpful in alleviating the stress associated that situation. They were all so Amazing!!!”

SCOTT P. HEALY, FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CLACKAMAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE



Luna at the court info desk



Jennifer from Multnomah County DISP Court getting love from Sparrow



Judges name Luna the Best Juror Ever!

“Our staff, judges, and jurors do difficult work and are often exposed to traumatic testimonies and case facts. Luna’s (and Angela’s) presence provides everyone with a short, yet impactful reprieve. She has adapted to our court culture and has learned what staff need.

Sometimes it is just a comforting look with her rich brown eyes or watching her get excited when she sees her favorites or laying on her back so staff can give her belly rubs. We adore our PACTT team and they help us continue the work!”

**CARRIE SUMMERS-NOMURA,
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CLACKAMAS
COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**



Bikers Against Child Abuse supported victim at Multnomah County Court with LisaLu



Dan and Axel at Clackamas County



Sparrow hard at work in Multnomah County DISP court!



Solo with Natalie Multnomah County Court

Newsmaker of the Year

Olivia is a therapy dog and a lifesaving blood donor, bringing both comfort and care wherever she goes. She's donated blood more than 20 times, helping pets in our community when they need it most.

Olivia was recently honored as a [Newsmaker of the Year by the Royal Rosarians](#) at their annual banquet, where she made history as the first animal ever recognized at the event!

Olivia was celebrated for her role in helping save a puppy's life through one of her donations, a small act that became a life-changing moment for a family.

Whether she's offering comfort as a therapy dog or saving lives through blood donation, Olivia shows us the quiet power of showing up for others.



Springtime Snuggles



Alban, Milly, and Metzi at Wet Nose!



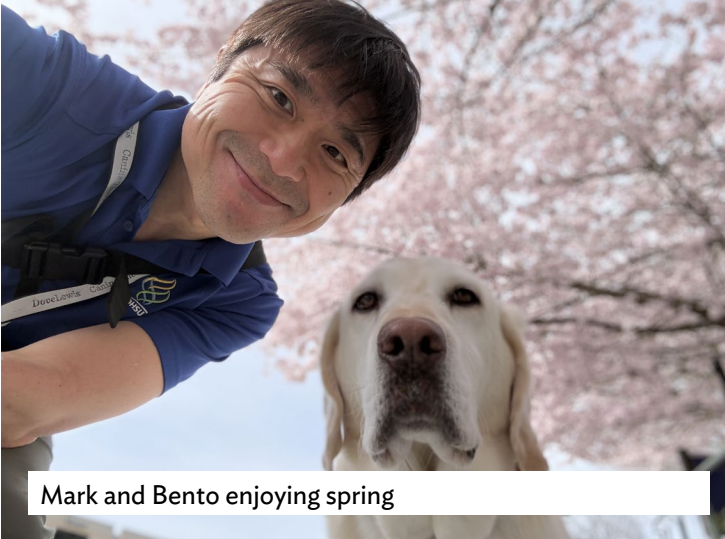
Bonnie at United Cerebral Palsy visit



Franci, Missy, and Houdini with Girl Scouts!



Huey at Restraint Training Class



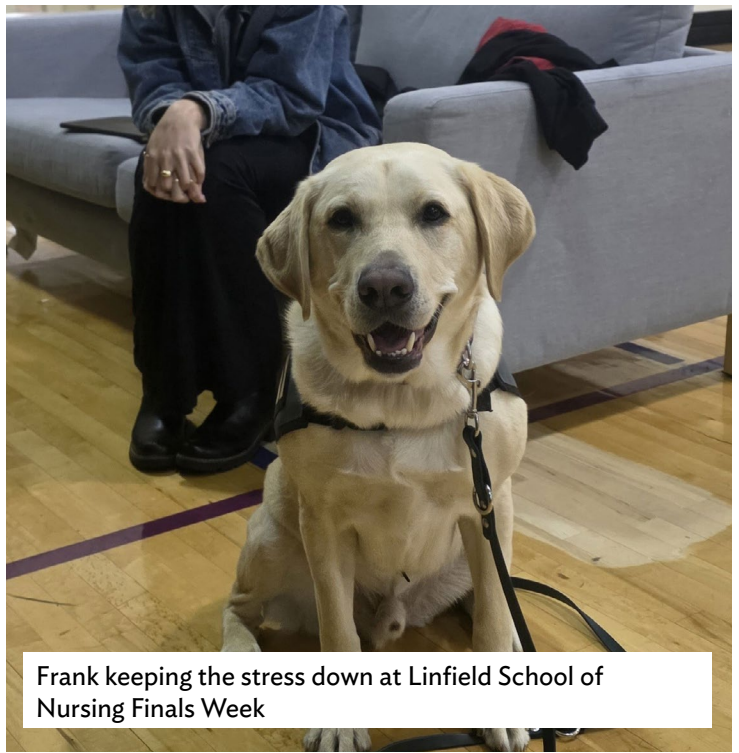
Mark and Bento enjoying spring



Frank at Linfield School of Nursing!



Brinley's First Birthday!



Frank keeping the stress down at Linfield School of Nursing Finals Week



Bonnie with a guest at Wet Nose



Hagrid, Squid, and Tater Tot after a school day!



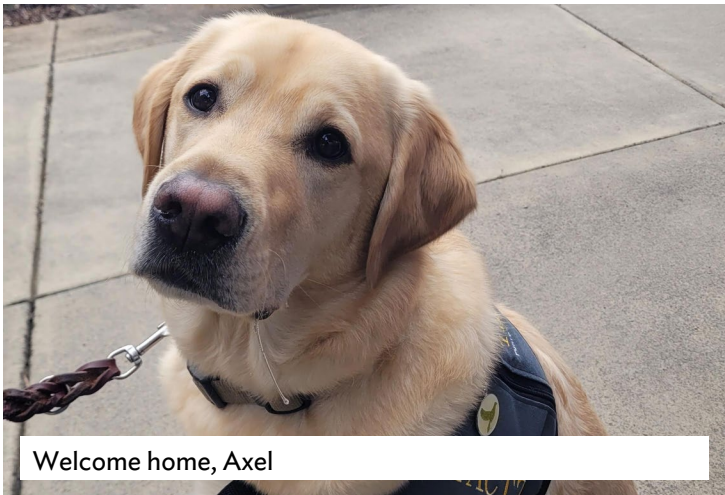
Huey at Albina Read to the Dog



Sparrow at PSU with new friends



Mark and Bento at PDX



Welcome home, Axel



Megan at PSU with her many admirers



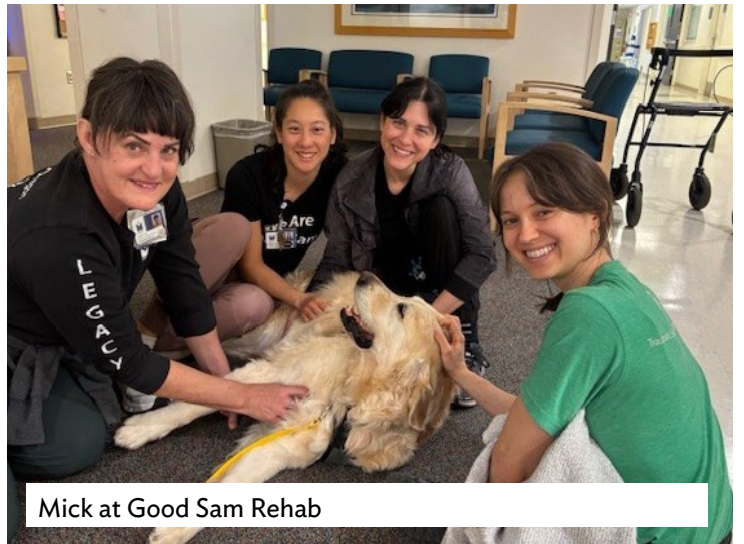
Stress Relief



Megan's Restraint Training class with Huey and Houdini



Metzi and Bento with the Girl Scouts



Mick at Good Sam Rehab



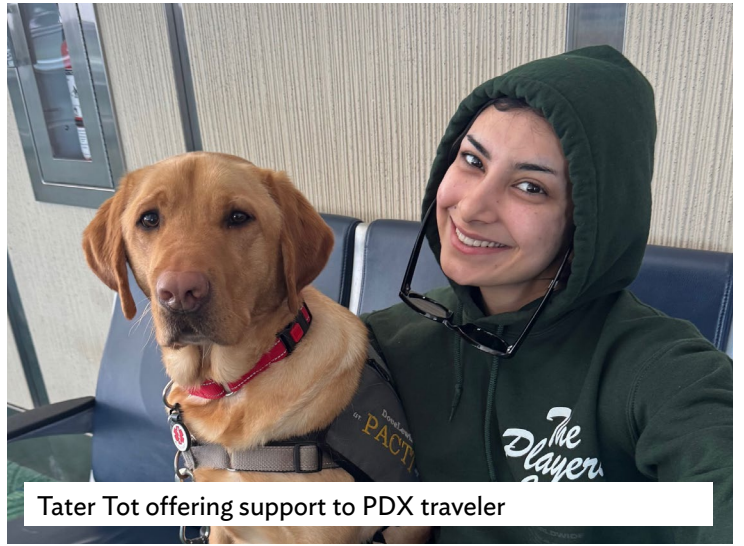
Sparrow at PSU



Roxy, Frank, and Riley at Linfield Finals Week Stress Relief



Metzti and Moonlight patiently waiting for PDX treat



Tater Tot offering support to PDX traveler



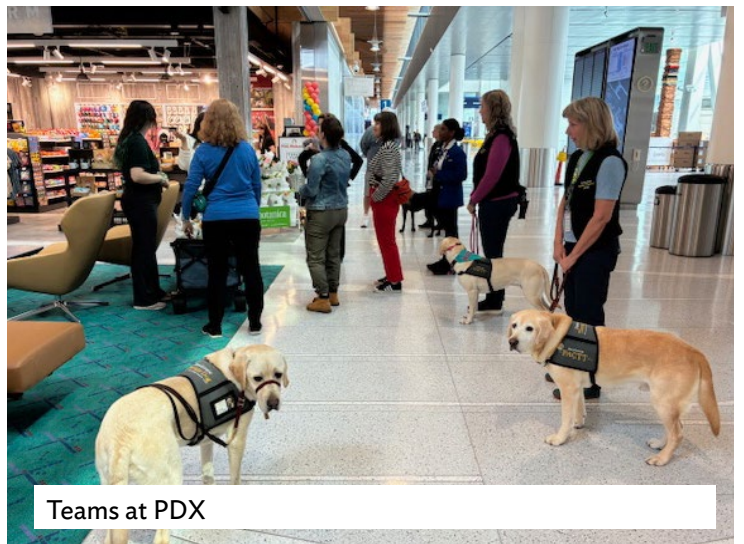
Port of Portland Police love Pippin, Metzti, Moonlight, and Willow



Presidio, Willow, and Venice welcome travelers at PDX



Willow at Sunday Church



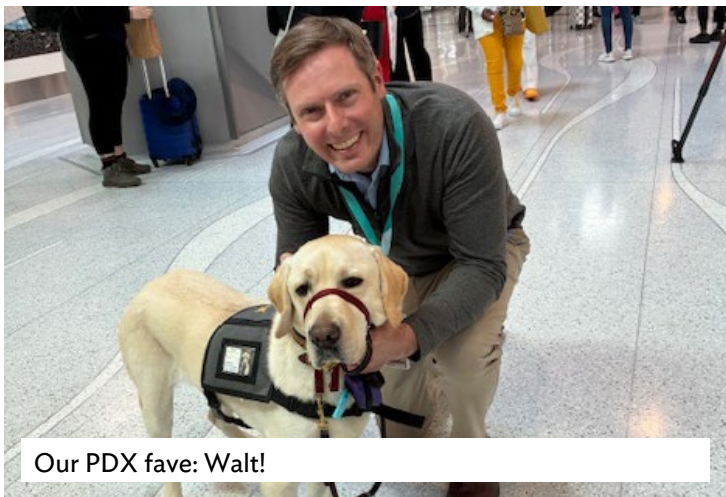
Teams at PDX



Metzi getting a little love at PDX



With Love from Presidio, Willow, and Venice at PDX



Our PDX fave: Walt!



Metzi and Red at PDX



Vic, Willow, Jan, John, and Brea in front of beautiful new mosaic art at PDX

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Charlton Kennels & Farm | 13825 NW Charlton Rd, Portland, OR

We can't wait to celebrate the two-legged and four-legged heroes behind PACTT and the DoveLewis Blood Bank. We'll be reflecting on the year's accomplishments, enjoying some tasty treats, and bringing back the always-entertaining trick contest.

[Click Here to Register](#)



PACTT Merchandise



Check out all the PACTT merchandise available for you including polos, long sleeves, and more. [Click Here to Shop Now!](#)

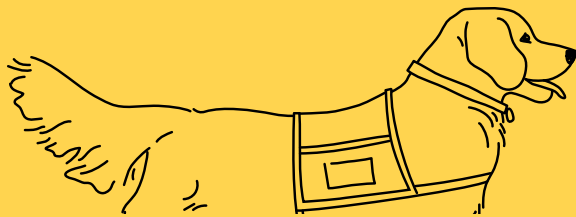


Kathy Loter

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