

*DoveLewis*  
**PACTT**  
PORTLAND AREA CANINE THERAPY TEAMS



The Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT) is a DoveLewis Emergency and Specialty Animal Hospital donor funded community outreach program. The only dogs we use in our program are highly trained career change or retired guide dogs from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Career change and retired guides have been in training since the day they were born with a plan to become a service guide dog. About 40% make it as a guide and the rest are career changed to other services or into our program for therapy work. In their training, these dogs have been exposed to many complex situations to be the eyes and protection of a legally blind person.

Handlers who chose to apply to our program must have a career change or retired guide to start the process. A team is a handler and a dog. Once approved, teams go through extensive application and training. Once a team passes the assessment, they receive further training and orientation to become a DoveLewis volunteer. Teams are trained in facilities, crisis response, self-care, court victim support, and psychological first aid. These highly trained teams recertify every two years and must pass a background check. Teams are insured through DoveLewis and we provide facilities with a certificate of liability insurance (COI) upon request. Due to the exceptional training and environmental exposure by Guide Dogs for the Blind and further training through DoveLewis, our teams are advanced complex rated.

All placement for locations is done by the DoveLewis PACTT program manager to ensure the facility, the handler, and the dog are a good fit. It is my job to listen to the needs of each location to make sure we provide the right team. No location is the same even if it is in the same field. Our teams are professional. Understanding the comfort and quiet support their dogs can bring to people in difficult situations, handlers let the visits be an interaction between the dog and the person they are there to visit.

PACTT teams are in Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, and Clark County Juvenile and Specialty Courts. We also partner with Trauma Intervention Program for crisis response when canine therapy teams are needed. Our teams can deploy within 24 hours.

We are the only canine therapy program permitted and badge processed with the Port of Portland International Airport allowing us into secured areas.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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