### DoveLewis<sup>-</sup> Canine Therapy Teams

PORTLAND AREA CANINE THERAPY TEAMS

# November 2022 Newsletter

### Autumn Leaves and All of Our Visits, Please!



Anta Helping Raise Awareness for Domestic Violence Prevention Month





Hugs for Lions at Portland Police Family Day





**Brea Loves Visiting Cleveland Highschool** 









Lisa, Liberty and Roger Gave Dr. Tauber the Best Hugs



## A Dog with Intrinsic Compassion

During the pandemic, we stayed home. Mick, my PACTT golden retriever, was bored. Walks and tricks were not quite enough. Mick missed meeting the people of his courtroom and hospital days. One day, as things began to open up, I attended a Sunday service at the tiny, country church near our cabin in the mountains. The congregation was only about twelve, so we felt relatively safe. In the part where people shared their needs, a very elderly woman began to cry. Her little dog had died, and she was bereft.

Living alone in a cabin in the woods did not help. Tears poured down her cheeks. She did not know how she would continue to have the strength to fight her cancer without the solace of her beloved pet. She was afraid. When I suggested Mickie could come to visit, her whole face brightened. The pastor had met Mick and welcomed the idea of him coming the following Sunday. As we slid into the pew next to my new friend, her tears began.

Mick's response took our breath away. He jumped on the pew next to her, snuggled as close as he could, putting his beautiful, golden head against her and his paw protectively across her lap. Her face relaxed and a look of peace came across her face. Mick knew, even though he had never met her before. He stayed close to her throughout the readings, homily and singing, needing no direction from me. People noticed something beyond us was going on. There seemed to be a kind of reverence in the air. When everyone rose to the last song, Mick sat up on the pew, in full view of everyone, and put his head on her shoulder. I placed myself a leash length away, so the moment was just between the two. There was not a dry eye in the



house. The phenomena of healing power between a dog and human moved us powerfully.

Mick now goes to this church whenever we are in the country, at the request of congregants, and always seems to find people who are dealing with unsettled times. The woman is now home bound, but she has a hotline for a doggie visit from Mick whenever she feels it would help. Then he does one of his famous goodbye waves. The woman found a great deal of peace in Mick's visit and, a little teary, thanked us profusely, requesting a return visit this Thursday which we will do. Mick's instinctive compassion, his focused gaze, always takes my breath away and moved me to another level being of being.

- Ingrid and Mick

#### PACTT NEWSLETTER- NOVEMBER 2022



Piccolo O'Brien with his teddy bear

# 🎘 Holiday 🖄 **Photo Contest**

We thought it would be fun to bring back our photo contest again this year! Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges from DoveLewis

Please email your entries to either kloter@dovelewis.org or pactt@dovelewis.org.

First and second place will win special prizes! Pictures due December 15th.





#### Time to Snuggle Up With Some PACTT Merchandise







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



**Kathy Loter** PACTT Program Manager 253-951-0306

kloter@dovelewis.org