DoveLewis⁻ Canine Therapy Teams

PORTLAND AREA CANINE THERAPY TEAMS

July 2023 Newsletter



Our fiscal year ended on June 30, 2023, and this last year has been amazing!

PACTT celebrates our 10-year anniversary with many accomplishments. We have seen the highs and lows of growth. The low was the pandemic, but we still found a way to share our dogs online and by sending cards to hospital staff and our locations. The FBI Directors Community Leadership Award truly was a high! This award is so inspiring because it reinforces what we all witness every day: our dogs bring joy and help our community in many ways! We have expanded our roll in victim support, specialty courts, first responders, and the justice system in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties. We have teams supporting youth at risk in courts, in detention, and in schools each week. Hospice and hospitals feel the impact of our teams who bring comfort with their sweet dogs. Teams bring joy at the airport to travelers, TSA, airline employees, vendors, and PDX employees. PACTT teams support our communities every day of the week.

There is no doubt that all of you with your dogs make a difference to everyone you interact with. I am so proud of how far we have come. This is due to your professionalism, dedication, and love for your dogs. You all have made this program so successful in your work supporting many on what may be their darkest day. You bring joy and happiness to literally thousands.

Each of you play a part in the success of our program, bringing your own individuality and experiences to make each visit unique. We support and learn from each other with dedication, professionalism, and lots of humor! I look forward to another year with you serving our communities and finding new opportunities to share our amazing dogs!



-Kathy and Marvin

Appreciating YOU!

















A Visit You'll Never Forget

Sometimes their therapy work goes beyond what we have seen before. It is always unexpected. That happened to me this week. Roger and I, his dutiful personal assistant and driver, were at the Multnomah County Courthouse. We were asked to support 4 siblings, ages 7-13, who are victims of domestic violence. After introductions, the kids rolled around on the floor with Roger, who, best I could tell, was having at least as much fun as the kids. He helped make listening to the attorney and expert staff easier as they prepared the kids for what was ahead — time in court in just a few days.

All the kids had a chance to walk Roger down the hallways and see the courtroom and other surroundings where they would, for the first time in a couple years, see the alleged abuser. When our prep visit ended, the staff told the kids that another great therapy dog from the PACTT program, one of Roger's



friends, would be with them next week for the trial. Almost as if they'd planned it, the kids said 'can Roger come? Would he? Could he?'. No promises were made, but I quietly offered to the staff that Roger would like to come back for the court date. I could see what he meant to them. The next day, Roger and I were invited back for the court day.

When Roger showed up in the waiting room on 'court day', those kids lit up. They did not know until that moment that Roger was waiting for them. The plan was for the kids, one by one, to be taken to the courtroom to testify while the others waited their turn with Roger in the holding area. It was then, just like before, that the kids said, "we want Roger to go to court with us". Shortly thereafter, we heard that the attorneys and judge agreed.

The next thing I knew, the 7-year-old, with staff support, was walking Roger down the hall toward the courtroom. I was happy to follow behind (that was part of the deal from Roger's perspective). With a couple reminders, he led Roger into the courtroom, and that 7-year-old took his chair on the witness stand. I sat a few feet away and Roger was at his side. The boy left after his testimony, but Roger stayed a foot from that stand for well over an hour as the next two kids, one at a time, came, testified, and left.

When it was time for the last child, an 11-year-old, to testify, there was a painful pause in the proceedings.

Through the glass in the door to the room, I could see a scared child with staff. Not knowing quite what to do, I decided to walk Roger out of the courtroom to be with her. With her lawyer and staff, Roger seemed like what she needed. With a handful of treats, she had Roger's full attention. She was afraid to go back in and see "that man", but agreed to come in if she could walk with Roger. Once again, I followed the two of them to the witness stand. Roger did not leave her side for a second while she was in the witness chair. She must have looked at him 15 times (and gave him about as many treats) until it was over.

Then, she walked Roger back to the room to be with her siblings. The kids had colored a book called All About Arthur, a two-year old Golden Retriever. They had edited all 20 pages to be about Roger, the 9 1/2-year yellow lab (who did not like swimming) and with more details about him than I ever imagined they'd remember. And then, the kids all left for summer camp.

I was exhausted and have never felt so much gratitude for my dog. He was spectacular. He was just being his best self. And he did some serious good work. In one way or another, those kids will remember him for a long time. And, as you already know, he slept the entire way home.

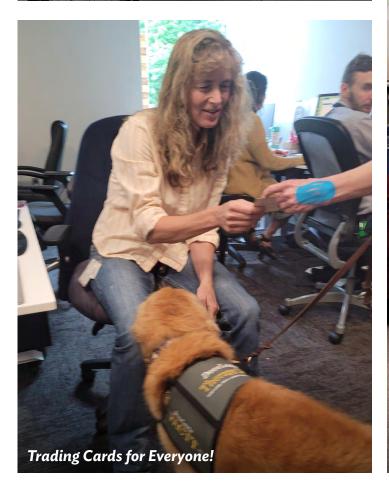
-Dan and Roger



Spreading Love and Tail Wags at DoveLewis



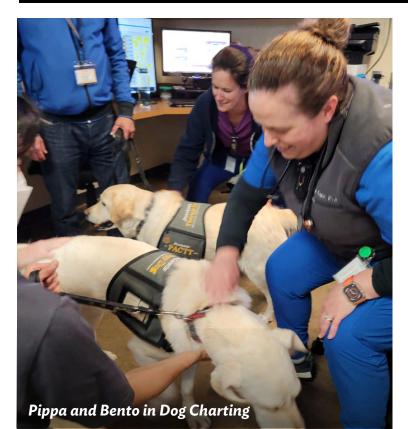
Bento Arriving in Style for Staff Visits





Bento and Pippa with Staff













Summer Visits

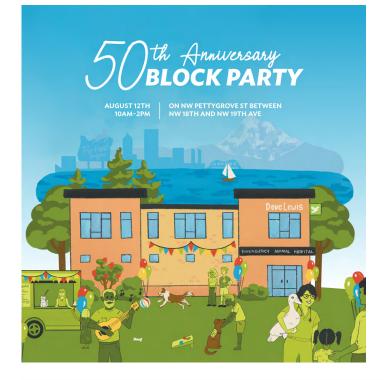


Gershwin Enjoying Her Appreciation Gift









Join Us As We Celebrate 50 Years!

August 12 | 10 AM - 2 PM NW Pettygrove between NW 18th & NW 19th Ave

DoveLewis has been serving our community for 50 years, and we believe this milestone deserves a momentous celebration! Come celebrate with us at this family-friendly and pet-friendly block party featuring food trucks, vendors, pet-themed activities, art activities, and more.

> Want to Volunteer? Click here to email Kathy



Coming Soon!

Dogtoberfest

September 30 | 12 PM - 4 PM | Lucky Lab Hawthorne

Our dog-friendly street fair is back to help raise money for the Blood Bank. The costume contest is returning get ready for a howling good time. More details coming soon!



Check out all the PACTT merchandise available for you including the polos with bright summer colors! <u>Click Here to Shop Now!</u>



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