

Established in 1942, **Guide Dogs for the Blind's** mission is to place guide dogs with people who are blind and visually impaired. GDB also believes that our career change dogs change lives, too. All of these dogs are great companions. Some go on to other careers as service dogs, search and rescue dogs, medical alert dogs, therapy dogs, and other roles.

DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital, established in 1973 and based in Portland, Oregon is the only nonprofit, 24-hour emergency and intensive care unit in the region. DoveLewis provides donor-funded programs to the community, including one of the United States' largest volunteer-based animal blood banks, a nationally recognized pet loss support program, animal-assisted therapy, 24-hour stabilizing care for lost, stray, wild and abused animals, and financial assistance for qualifying low-income families.

Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT)



Guide Dogs for the Blind and DoveLewis are working together to bring canine therapy teams to the Metro Portland area through Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT). Therapy dogs provide people with the therapeutic benefit of contact with dogs. The dogs are usually the personal pets of their handlers. The dog and handler provide services in a variety of settings that may include hospitals, senior homes and schools.

How does the Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams work?

- The program is only available to Guide Dogs for the Blind career change or retired dogs and their adopters.
- A representative of Guide Dogs for Blind provides education for handlers and conducts an assessment of the human/dog teams.
- DoveLewis enrolls certified team handlers as DoveLewis volunteers and matches teams with agencies.
- DoveLewis manages the volunteer relationships.
- Teams must have completed an AKC Canine Good Citizen program and test prior to be considered for the PACTT program.
- Recertification and education will be done by Guide Dogs for the Blind and DoveLewis every 2 years (or as needed based on team performance).
- Fees are charged to help offset program costs.
 - Education and assessment fee, payable to Guide Dogs for the Blind (includes administrative fee, educational session, one assessment) \$50.00 initial fee; \$25 recertification fee.
 - Volunteer application fee, payable to DoveLewis (includes administrative fee, dog jacket, patch, and badge, educational session): \$150.00 initial fee; \$25 recertification fee. Additional handler to the same dog \$50; Additional dog with the same handler \$50.
- All handlers must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- A handler and/or owner of a dog may be liable for any claims related to his/her or the dog's actions.
- All dogs must be at least 12 months of age and have lived with their handler for at least 4 months.
- Dogs on a raw food diet are unable to participate due to concern for zoonotic diseases
- DoveLewis can disallow individual dogs from participating in the program or require additional recertification.
- PACTT program dogs are not service animals and do not have public access rights.

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