



# Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams

*A partnership between DoveLewis and Guide Dogs for the Blind*

## Impacting the criminal justice system

Therapy dogs are proven to lower stress and facilitate positive interaction in a courtroom setting. These highly trained teams allow the court to set a tone of support for program participants.

PACTT's four-legged advocates are adaptable and focused while providing comfort. During sessions for drug court, mental health court and other restorative proceedings, therapy dogs help further an individual's recovery by offering affection and easing anxiety. The power of the human-animal bond can open lines of communication and instill confidence for those in challenging situations. Most importantly, PACTT teams know when to engage and when to be reserved during court sessions.

## Providing support and acceptance

*"I love having the teams in court. For my clients, I see playfulness and a sense of calm amongst many of them when the dogs are there. I think that having the teams there helps to make what is otherwise incredibly stressful, much more relaxed and normal."*

*- Sara Mulroy, defense attorney for Multnomah County START and Mental Health courts*

*"My first impression of the teams was that they were very professional. I get the sense that the teams are truly ready to serve, that they are happy to be in this setting providing acceptance and support for our court participants."*

*- Judge Cheryl Albrecht, Multnomah County Circuit Court*

*"The time we spent with [PACTT dog] Zephyr was magical. It was a beautiful way to recharge our hearts and minds - a break from our daily reality, the stress that comes with working in law enforcement."*

*- Meghan Delk, Clackamas County Parole & Probation Office*

**Visit the Oregon Knowledge Bank** at [okb.oregon.gov/pactt](http://okb.oregon.gov/pactt) for research information, critical factors for success and the impact animal-assisted therapy teams have on the criminal justice system.



## PACTT currently works with:

Multnomah County START Court

Multnomah County STOP Court

Multnomah County  
Mental Health Court

Beaverton Municipal B-SOBR Court

Washington County  
Juvenile Department

Clackamas County Parole  
& Probation Office

Northwest Regional Re-entry Center

Hillsboro Police Department  
Domestic Violence Response Team

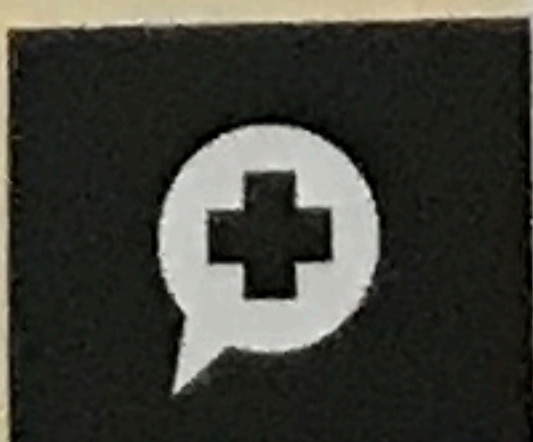
Trauma Intervention Program (TIP)

Portland Police  
Behavioral Health Unit

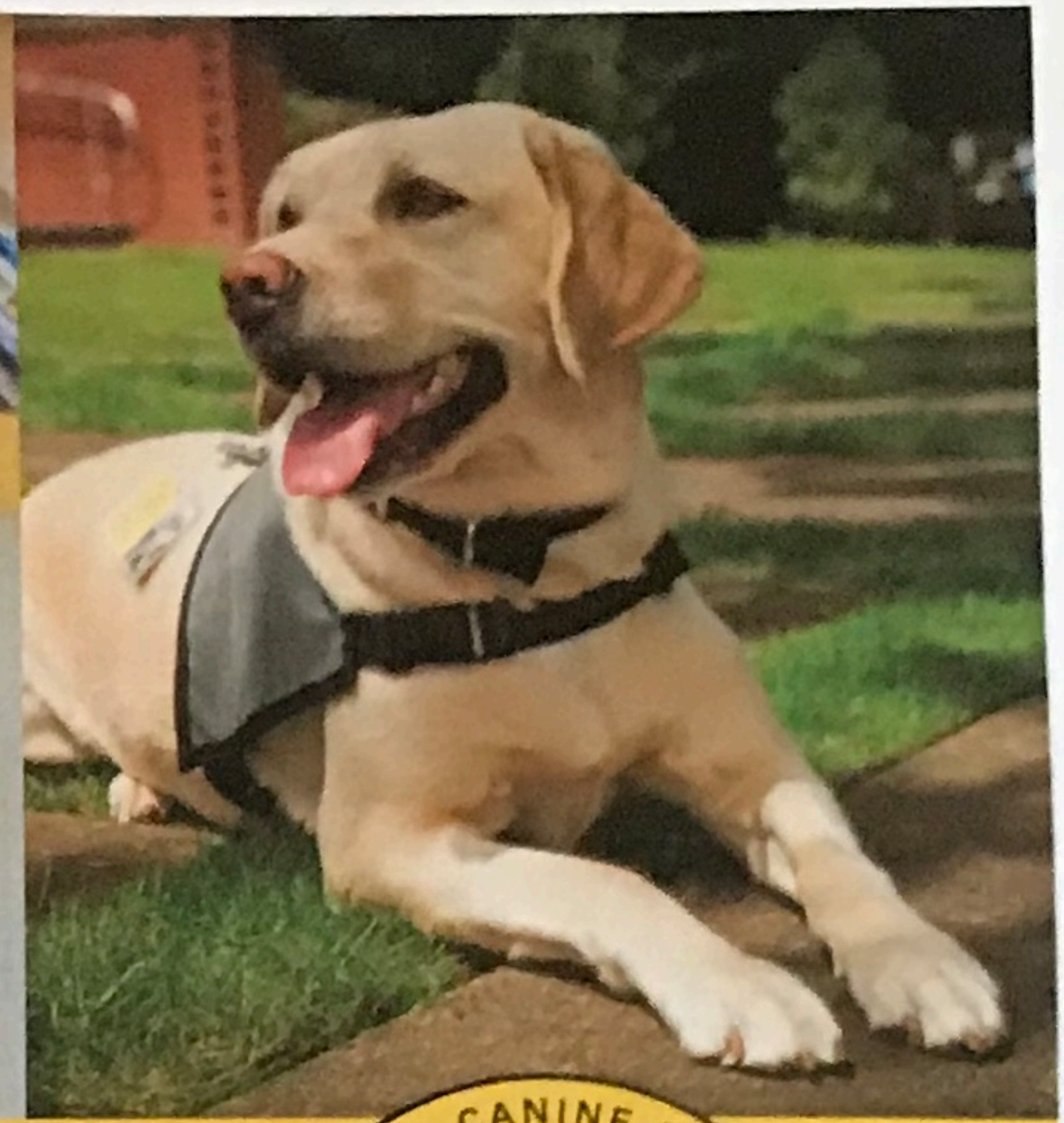
FBI - Portland Division

Criminal Justice Commission

**DoveLewis**







*PACTT offers comfort and compassion with advanced animal-assisted therapy*



## What is "Advanced" Therapy?

The calm temperament, focused upbringing and extensive training of the retired and career change guide dogs in our program make PACTT the most advanced team of volunteer therapy animals available. Teams receive thousands of training hours, including preparation in psychological first aid. This allows our therapy dogs and handlers to assist in unpredictable emotional and physical environments and to handle intense and complex situations.

Each team is under the leadership and guidance of established, community-oriented organizations, DoveLewis and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Dogs have been training since the day they were born, so their behavior is predictable. Facilities can trust that they will be matched with dogs and handlers who are best suited to meet their needs.

### Supporting our community

PACTT dogs and their handlers frequently work with vulnerable populations, including those in specialty courts, senior centers, hospitals and schools. Our therapy teams have offered comfort to mentally and physically fragile children and adults, traumatic brain injury survivors, and many others in highly sensitive situations. PACTT dogs also provide comfort to first responders, hospital workers and others in supervisory roles. These dogs are conditioned to remain focused and engaged in environments with many distractions.

Research shows that the power of the human-animal bond can lower stress and help improve health. Therapy animals offer acceptance, affection, physical and mental support, and plenty of hugs from a gentle furry friend.

### PACTT MISSION:

Through the comfort of canine therapy, PACTT offers compassionate support to victims, survivors, families, first responders and those affected by traumatic events.

## For More Information

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