



Circle Tail, Inc.

People Helping Dogs Who Help People





OVERVIEW

Circle Tail is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1997 for the purpose of training service and hearing dogs and partnering them with people with disabilities at NO COST to the individual.

Circle Tail's mission is to provide only high quality service and hearing dogs to people with disabilities. Circle Tail also provides in-home service and hearing dogs to adults with disabilities and provides companion dogs to children with disabilities.

Circle Tail currently does not have a breeding program. We evaluate carefully selected puppies and adult dogs from unwanted litters, family releases, area shelters, and breeder donations. Circle Tail also provides a limited admission shelter where we employ responsible spay and neuter practices and promote responsible pet ownership through adoptions, low cost obedience training classes, and educational programs.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

RESCUE AND EVALUATION

We begin by evaluating about 250 dogs from the tri-state area streets, unwanted litters, family releases, shelters, and breeder donations each year.

TRAINING AND REHABILITATION

The dogs with potential to become service or hearing dogs enter our Prison Inmate Program, where we've taught approximately 85 area inmates the art of dog training in an innovative rehabilitation program.

These dogs become a positive force in rehabilitating the prisoners by giving them unconditional love and a chance to give back to the community.

The dogs are socialized, trained and evaluated by several rotations through the prison training program, Circle Tail's own advanced training and boarding facility, and our dedicated foster families who reinforce the dogs' training.

PLACEMENT

The trained service and hearing dogs go on to forever change the lives of their human partner by giving them back some of the freedom their disability took away.

"DROP-OUTS"

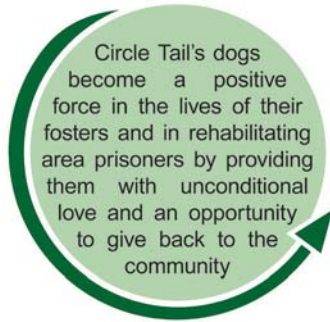
What about the dogs that don't have the skills or temperament to become service or hearing dogs? These dogs, affectionately termed "drop-outs," are placed as in-home service or hearing dogs or companion animals to children with disabilities; therapy dogs providing support at funeral homes, hotels, or assisted living facilities; search & rescue and detection dogs; or as beloved pets to adoptive families.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE CIRCLE TAIL PROGRAM

DOGS



PEOPLE



DOGS & PEOPLE



ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS



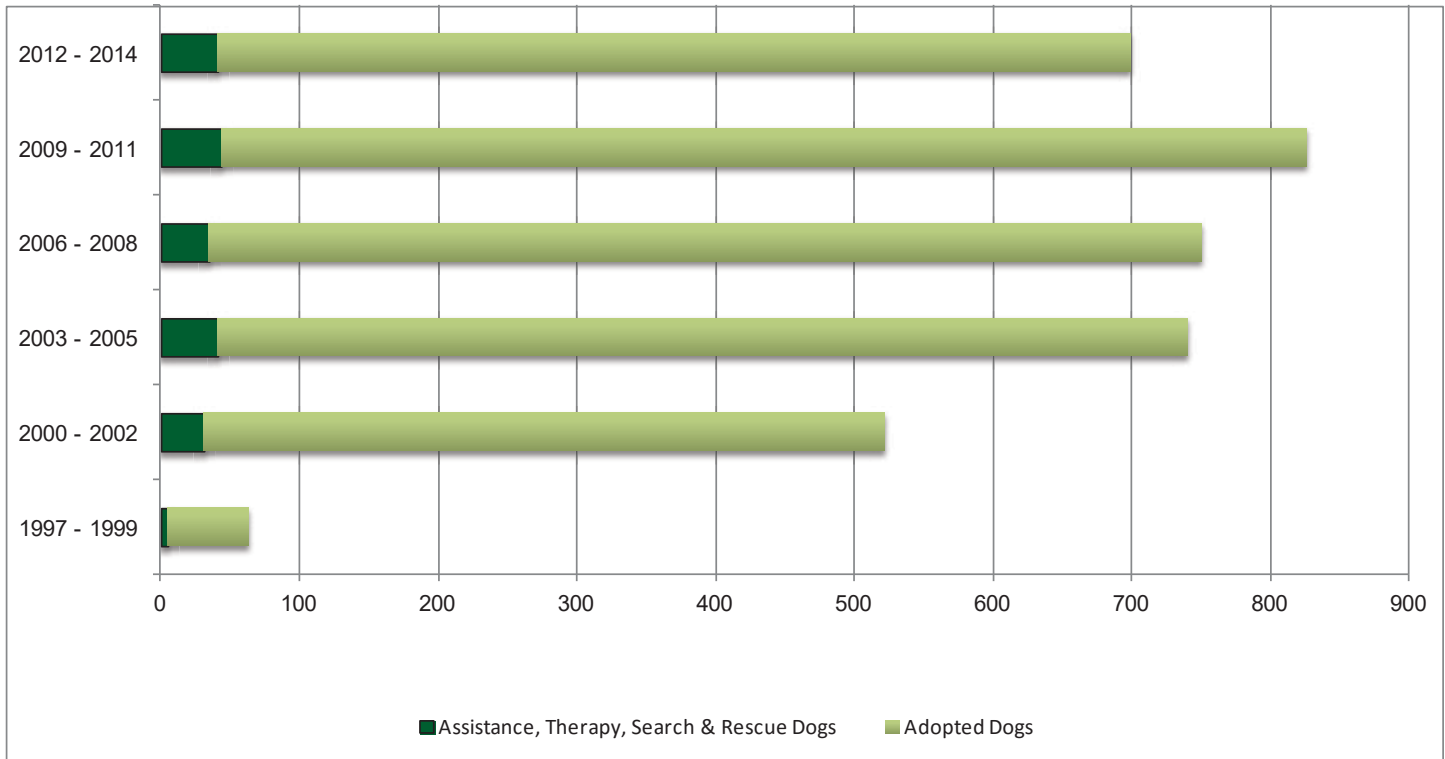
Circle Tail is proud to be accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI). We have met and continue to meet the top standards required. Circle Tail is one of only 59 accredited organizations in North America. Read why this is an important distinction and about the standards required by ADI at www.assistedogsinternational.org.

Circle Tail is a member of the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (www.iaadp.org), Little Miami Chamber of Commerce (littlemiamiareachamber.com) and United Pet Fund (unitedpetfund.org).



DOGS AND PEOPLE SERVED

Since its inception, Circle Tail has placed almost 4,000 dogs as service and hearing dogs, therapy dogs, companion dogs and pets.



Circle Tail has partnered over 80 service & hearing dog teams, placed over 70 in-home assistance dogs, provided over 50 therapy and search & rescue dogs, and adopted out over 3,500 beloved pet dogs.

Due to the number of suitable dogs for service work declining in our area shelters, Circle Tail joined the Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Breeding Cooperative in 2014. This program is helping Circle Tail grow the number of service/hearing dog placements in years to come by increasing the number and improving the health and temperament of dogs who have the qualities to succeed as service or hearing dogs.

Circle Tail is able to obtain service potential pups when other organizations have excess, and has the ability to “host” and whelp litters for other organizations who have too many litters planned at one time.

MAJOR MILESTONES



Circle Tail, Inc. was established in 1997 and received its advanced ruling from the IRS showing Federal 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

1997



In 2008 Circle Tail proudly achieved full accreditation from Assistance Dogs International.

2008



In 2011, Circle Tail's volunteer veterinarians began performing spay and neuter surgeries for our dogs on site in our fully equipped surgery suite.

2011



Circle Tail received their first dog from the Assistance Dogs International Breeding Cooperative. Rani, a yellow labrador retriever was flown in from South Carolina in April 2015.

2015

2002

Circle Tail received its final determination as a non-profit public charity on January 11, 2002.



Circle Tail, Inc.

2009

2009 saw completion of the Circle Tail Training and Education center. The new facility features a 60 X 65 training floor, office, classroom, grooming room, "apartment" for training advanced service dog skills and providing Healing Touch for Animals, several storage rooms and 2 bathrooms. A small covered porch lines 2 sides of the building. The entire area is fenced in and will be landscaped.



2014



Circle Tail's state of the art Center for Service and Hearing Dogs opened in November 2014.

Features include 12 indoor/outdoor runs, whelping room, puppy night room, 2 puppy play rooms, a food prep room, heated floors and central air throughout, lots of windows and bright cheery colors.

BIOGRAPHIES



Marlys Staley, Executive Director

Ms. Staley is the Executive Director and founder of Circle Tail, Inc. Ms. Staley is a certified master dog trainer. Previously a physical therapist by profession, Ms. Staley founded Circle Tail after touring a training center for guide dogs in Florida and learning of the great need for service dogs. The career change would still draw on her background and experiences with people with disabilities and her knowledge of the psychological trauma and financial hardships they face. Through incredible effort and dedication, Ms. Staley has propelled Circle Tail forward for almost two decades.

Ms. Staley is a member of the International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP) and serves on the IACP Certification Committee. She is also an AKC Canine Good Citizen® Evaluator and a certified PetTech® PetSaver™ Instructor.



International Association
of Canine Professionals



Jennifer Kiblinger, President

Ms. Kiblinger began volunteering with Circle Tail in 1999 and fell in love with the organization and everything it represents. She has helped grow Circle Tail from a barn to a state of the art Training & Education Center and kennel for service and hearing dogs. Professionally, Ms. Kiblinger works as a Scientific Affairs Manager for a small biotech company. She shares her home with her two cats, and a Circle Tail adoptee who is now a registered Therapy Dog.



Dean Clarke, Vice President

Mr. Clarke has worked in the Crop Insurance Division of Great American Insurance Company for over 30 years, where he is currently the Vice President of Product Management and Reinsurance. Growing up on a farm in western Canada, Mr. Clarke developed a love for dogs and an understanding of how they can enhance the lives of their families. He and his wife Marcy first became involved with Circle Tail in 2012 when they fostered and trained Gatlin, a black lab and from then on he was hooked. Since that time Mr. Clarke has taken on much of the building and facility maintenance work at Circle Tail. He joined the Board in 2014 and serves on the finance committee. He and Marcy live near Seven Mile, Ohio with their two dogs Thor and Shelby and a Service Dog in training.



Jim Snyder, Treasurer

Mr. Snyder is a CPA working in Financial Planning and Analysis for Vantiv in Cincinnati. He joined the Circle Tail Board in 2011. Mr. Snyder was initially drawn to the organization by his love of dogs. What he has come to like most about Circle Tail is the unique, well rounded mission that serves both people with needs and dogs.

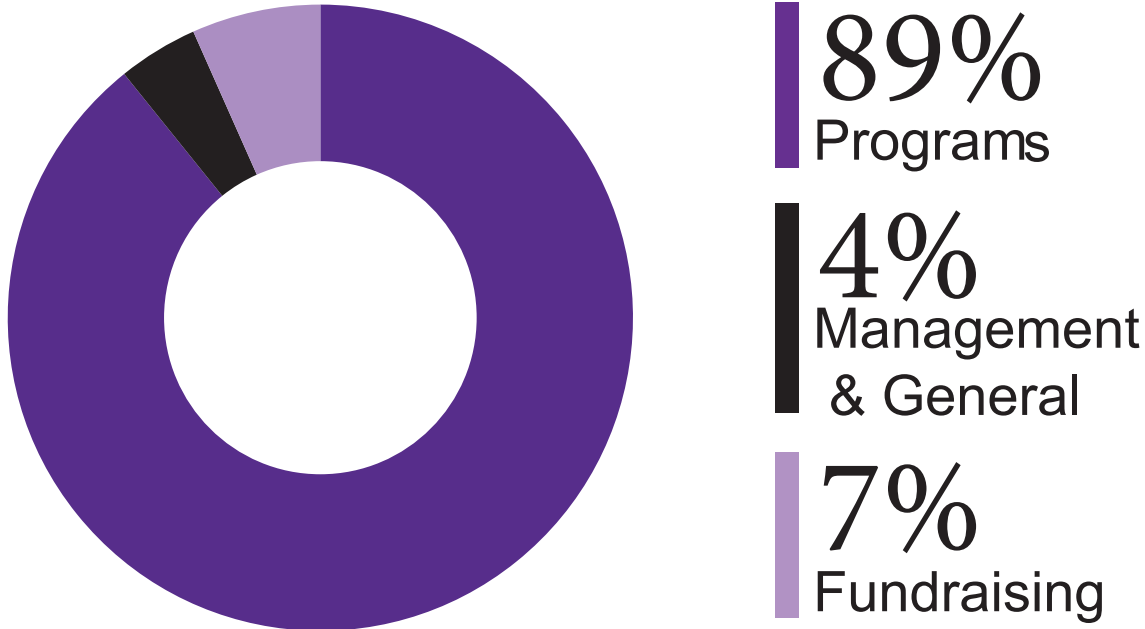


John Donovan, Secretary

Mr. Donovan joined the Circle Tail Board in 2010 and became an officer in 2014. He is active in many aspects of Circle Tail from strategic planning to work-days on-site. Mr. Donovan is a Senior Software Engineer for Siemens Healthcare.

2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Circle Tail spent \$298,742 in 2015. Circle Tail's financials are reviewed each year. The chart below shows how these expenses supported our work:



Programs

89% Allocated to Circle Tail's Programs

Circle Tail spent \$266,480 on programs in 2015. We strive to spend as much of our budget as possible on this work that has direct impact. The percentage of funds committed to these programs is above the international best practice of 80%.

Management & General

4% Management and General Costs

Circle Tail keeps management and general costs to a minimum. In 2015 Circle Tail spent \$12,362 on management and general costs. These costs include salaries for office and kennel staff, capital expenses such as depreciation and interest costs and an allocation of other indirect costs such as land rent, utilities, IT and cellular costs, and website costs.

Fundraising

7% Fundraising Costs

Circle Tail does not receive any government funding. We rely on private donations and grants to pay for the care of the dogs. In 2015 Circle Tail spent \$19,900 on fundraising. The costs represented here include costs related to event planning, and developing and maintaining donor relationships.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How did you get the name Circle Tail?

When dogs are really happy, their tail wags in a full circle. Our goal is to place happy dogs in whatever role they fit best – service dog, companion animal or beloved pet.

What kind of tasks can the dogs you train for service work do?

All of our service & hearing dogs have all of their basic and advanced obedience skills. Our service dogs mainly help retrieve objects, open/ close doors (with lever type door knobs), and turn on and off light switches. Our hearing dogs can alert their hearing impaired partner to sounds around the house or in public. For example: alarm clock, phone, door bell/ knock, fire alarm, kitchen timer, someone calling their name, etc. They also learn basic retrieval skills.

How long does it take to train a service dog?

It depends at what age we get the dog. We typically partner dogs between 2-3 years of age. If we get a puppy, we keep the dog in training until they are 2-3 years old. If we get an adult dog 1.5 years or older, it can take 6-12 months to learn basic, advanced and assistance dog skills.

How much does it cost to train a service dog?

It costs about \$15,000 to train and partner one dog.

Where are you located?

Our facility is located on 17 acres of land 30 miles northeast of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

Do you train guide dogs for the blind?

No we do not train or provide guide dogs.

How do I request a public service/hearing dog?

Our public access service & hearing dogs are placed with approved individuals with disabilities at no charge for the dog or training. To apply, there is a \$25 application fee, which remains the same since our inception in 1997. There is no charge for the dog or for training. Individuals must complete an application, have an interview at Circle Tail, and a home visit. There are additional training/partnership requirements. If interested, visit circletail.org.

How do I request an in home service/hearing or companion dog?

Read the information regarding guidelines for an in-home service/hearing dog on our website at circletail.org then complete the in-home application. Once we receive your submission, we will contact you for an interview at the Circle Tail facility. Following your interview at Circle Tail, a volunteer will visit your residence for a home assessment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

What breeds are service dogs?

For our assistance dog programs, our top two preferences are Labrador & Golden Retrievers, or mixes of the two breeds. A distant third are German Shepherds – they typically have a great work ethic however, most are too protective for the job. We can use smaller dogs like Shih Tzu or Poodle mixes for hearing dogs. However, Circle Tail doesn't necessarily focus on the specific breed of the dog so much as making sure the dog has the right temperament for assistance work. Dogs are carefully evaluated during the selection process and those dogs that have the temperament to be a working dog are selected for the program.

How long does a dog work?

Typically dogs work for 6-8 years (smaller dogs may work longer). We want them to retire and enjoy life after work. We do not partner a successor dog while the current dog is in the home. Once a dog retires, the person may choose to keep them or give them to a family member or friend if they need another dog. Circle Tail will always take back our retired service and hearing dogs.

What is the success rate of dogs that are chosen for service and start training?

Our success rate is about 20% for our dogs that we take in. We give many of the dogs that we intake into our programs a trial period in the assistance dog program, so our numbers may seem low. Dogs don't make it through the program due to a variety of reasons, including lack of confidence, dog/cat/people issues, medical issues, and lack of a work ethic.

Do you stay in touch with the service dogs once they are placed?

Circle Tail requires routine reporting by partnered service dog teams. Once partnered, teams have to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, the ADI Public Access Test, and a skills test within a year of partnership and then yearly for 3 years. These tests help ensure that the dog has a stable temperament, behaves properly in public, is unobtrusive in public, listens to his/her recipient, and that the recipient maintains control over the dog at all times. After the first 3 years, it is required that the team contacts us at least once per year.

How does the prison program work?

Circle Tail trainers provide regular instruction to the inmates in caring for and training the puppies/dogs. The inmates are responsible for all of the animals' physical and emotional needs. They oversee their social development, feeding, grooming, and exercise programs, and instruct them in good house manners and basic and advanced obedience. Some inmates also have the opportunity to train the dogs in advanced service skills. The inmates are with the animals at all times except during meals, and the puppies/dogs sleep in crates in the inmates' quarters. The Inmate/Canine program is currently comprised of two Ohio Correctional Institutions, including the Dayton Correctional Institute (DCI) and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW). Both are women's facilities. Approximately 40 puppies/dogs, both assistance and shelter, are housed, cared for and trained by the inmates at the correctional facilities at any one time.

NEWS COVERAGE



August 27, 2015 Women in prison use yoga to train dogs



January 10, 2015 Service dogs train at Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport



July 15, 2014 Inmates give rescued puppies new lease on life



January/February 2015 The tale of Circle Tail

For these stories and additional news coverage, visit our media center at circletail.org.

CONTACTS



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For adoptions: adoption@circletail.org

For training scheduling: training@circletail.org

For volunteer opportunities: volunteer@circletail.org

For logos, images or other permissions, email: admin@circletail.org

Annual reports and success stories can be found at www.circletail.org

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