



**“Partners with Paws for People with Special Needs”**

# The Circle Tail Times



**Circle Tail is honored to be chosen “BEST DOG PEOPLE”**

**by Cincinnati Magazine’s Best of the City 2007.**

**Check out the article on our website, or in the December issue.**

## **Circle Tail’s Mission**

Our mission is to provide high quality Assistance Dogs to people with mobility, hearing, neurological, or psychiatric disabilities, and to promote the human-canine bond in the community by providing dog adoptions, obedience training, behavior management, and boarding services.



Full member of Assistance Dogs International

## **A Message from the Executive Director...**

The holiday season is a time of wonder and joy. So, I wonder why I am not so full of joy. Perhaps it is because I am now living with an adolescent! Some of you have met my 10 month old German Shepherd dog named Tollan. Comments range from “what a gorgeous, smart, sociable German Shepherd pup” to “what were you thinking?!”

Most dogs are relinquished to shelters around 8-12 months of age due to a wide array of behaviors associated with adolescence. Dogs go through adolescence at various ages, anywhere from 9-24 months for most dogs; a little earlier for small breed dogs, and a little later for large breed dogs. You will know when your dog hits adolescence though because s/he will begin annoying you in a brand new way!! Boundary testing begins with a vengeance. “Did you say ‘sit’? I’m sorry, I’ve never heard that command before!”

All dogs go through it, and if you currently have a puppy, yours will too! Whether you have a puppy or adolescent dog, the key is to be patient and consistent, and exercise, exercise, exercise! Make a New Year’s resolution to take your dog to obedience class. Expect obedience and always remember to praise, praise, praise compliance! And when you get to the point where s/he hasn’t unraveled the toilet paper for weeks, and is laying quietly by your feet in the evening, don’t fret. Nothing is wrong. S/he has just grown up!

I hope you have a wonderful winter and enjoy your pup/dog(s) this holiday season no matter what his/her age. They are all special; some of them just have to do a lot more “downs” than others!!

*- Marlys & Tollan*

## **Update on Full Circle, The Campaign to Reach Circle Tail’s Full Potential**



If you’ve driven down Carey Lane toward Circle Tail lately, you’ve see a huge sign erected by 5/3 Bank, from whom we obtained our financing. So far the project may look like a bunch of stakes in a field, but our building contractor has begun the site plan and necessary ground studies to start building. We had our groundbreaking ceremony at the volunteer picnic in October.

Once construction begins, our training center will go up fast. There are a lot of steps that go beforehand, and sometimes we hit snags. But shortly, our plan for the septic system will be approved by the powers that be, and the architect will have the green light to get busy on the drawings. With winter coming on, we’ll continue to work on as much as we can, to stay on schedule for an early summer 2008 completion.

We’re happy to tell you our Full Circle Campaign to raise funds for the building has gotten off to a great start! Over \$63,000 in donations and pledges have arrived. Remember, Full Circle is a two-phase project, and our total estimated need for both phases will be \$800,000. Please give what you can to make the dream come true!

For complete details on our building plans, visit our website at [www.circletail.org](http://www.circletail.org).

## Thank You Procter & Gamble Company! The **P&G Fund** awarded Circle Tail a grant for the full sponsorship of 2 Assistance Dog Teams!

### Vickie the Southern Belle

*Barb Burton was partnered with hearing dog, Vickie, a Black Lab, in April 2003. They recently moved from Deerfield Township, Ohio to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

We bid a teary goodbye to friends, finished loading my Highlander from stem to stern and headed down the road toward our new home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Vickie took up residence in "her" back seat complete with a rotating fan to keep her cool throughout the long drive.

The movers needed both of our front doors open, along with every other door in the house, and so we had an influx of lovebugs. Lovebugs for all you who are pleasantly uninitiated, look like small fireflies. Twice a year, and we moved here right in the middle of round two, they mate, and are EVERYWHERE! Vickie



decided it was her job to rid the house of as many lovebugs as she could. However, she quickly discovered the lovebugs taste as bad as they smell! We also have lizards around the yard. Vickie isn't sure what to do about the lizards, so occasionally she barks at them. Sometimes she comes to get me, bumping me with her nose to show me a lizard sitting on the porch rail.

We are now in the house and pretty well settled. At my office, Vickie has claimed the space under my desk as hers. She has become a regular presence at meetings and I find that just having her in the room makes other people smile. Since our job is related to hurricane recovery and is very difficult, "Vickie therapy" is important. Our small group at work trains people about access and inclusion for people who are elderly and or who have disabilities. At trainings, Vickie's presence reminds the people in the class that people with disabilities are very real and not just a name on a piece of paper. When they see her retrieve things for me or tell me about a phone ringing somewhere in the room they begin to understand just a little bit better what people with disabilities go through and how wonderful assistance dogs are.

All three of us are settling into our new Southern home. We miss our friends in Southwest Ohio and we truly miss our friends from Circle Tail. But here we are, up to our eyeballs in LSU football, bayous, gumbo and jambalaya and lovebugs. Vickie and I are now southern belles.

*Marlys Staley, our head trainer, is a professional member of the International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP).*



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*The spotlight shines on  
**Samantha Gorsuch***

Samantha writes, "I've loved animals from day 1. Growing up, I practically had my own zoo - a goat, 2 rabbits, 2 ducks, 2 chickens, numerous parakeets and hamsters, a cat that gave birth to nine kittens, and a very special Golden Retriever named Lucky. As an adult, I've always shared my home with cats - I love their curiosity and attitude. Still, sometimes I feel there's something missing, but due to the hours I work, I've never felt I could give a dog the care s/he would need.

One day, I came across a website that Johnson & Johnson has for its employees, featuring volunteer opportunities in the surrounding area. I discovered Circle Tail needed dog walkers and that's when it hit me. I could enjoy the company of man's (and woman's) best friend every other Tuesday. I've marked this on my work calendar and I don't accept meetings for this time. I can't tell you how much I look forward to this time.

My favorite thing to do with the dogs is to take them into the enclosed area and play fetch, which turns into "keep away from Sam" many times. I love it! We're instantly friends! I also like exploring with the dogs on the different trails there on the property. One day, I hope I'm in the position to do much more for Circle Tail, because I feel like they've helped me much more than I've been able to help them.



### Just in time for your holiday shopping!

When doing your online holiday shopping, check out some websites that help Circle Tail at no extra cost to you, including our newest addition, **BRING PETS HOME!** Visit our website for a complete list.

## Circle Tail Services

Circle Tail provides a variety of services for the community, including basic, intermediate, remedial, and remote collar group training, private lessons, board & train programs, assistance dog training & certification, AKC® Canine Good Citizen testing, training supplies and toys, and boarding. See our website or contact us for details.

## Happy Beginnings Zia

Chris & Alicia fostered Zia (left, with current foster dog, Spirit) two separate times while she was a service dog in training. She fit in well, and Five-O, their other dog, loved Zia like crazy! So when it was decided that Zia had a bit too much playful energy for the focused work of a service dog, Chris & Alicia decided to make her a permanent part of their family. Best of all, they've found a great way to channel her energy and drive into a different avenue of service work, by training her as a search and rescue/cadaver dog! She has already performed a couple of people tracks with success, and has even been able to locate particular odors inside and outside.



## Spotlight Dog for Adoption



Hi, I'm Bandy, a Chocolate Lab whose tail doesn't stop wagging! I'm an energetic, happy go lucky girl who just adores people. I love to be everywhere you are! I like people of all ages, and I'll do well with older kids/teens who can provide me leadership, guidance, and of course play time! I'm fine with well-mannered dogs, but I can't

resist chasing cats! I'm housetrained, crate trained, and very obedient. No need to worry about the winter blahs with me to cheer you up!!



Member, American Boarding Kennel Association

## Drug Dog Shadow, formerly "Choctaw", Makes 2 Drug Busts Within 3 Weeks on the Job!

Deputy John Branham from the Ross County Sheriff Office adopted German Shepherd, Choctaw, now called Shadow, to be a drug searching dog. Shadow recently alerted Deputy Branham to the presence of drugs during a vehicle stop. Deputy Branham discovered crack cocaine in the possession of one of the passengers. The 18-year-old was arrested and charged with drug abuse and possession of crack cocaine, a first degree felony. This was Shadow's second drug bust since he finished his training 3 weeks prior!



Shadow, adopted from Circle Tail, is now a drug dog for Deputy John Branham of the Ross County, OH Sheriff Office!



Above: When Maeby's family first adopted her, they thought she was just a meek and afraid girl, but now she's a wild woman...and just a little spoiled too!

## 65 Dogs Were Adopted Between September 1 & December 1!

Check out our Happy Beginnings page on our website to see how some of them are doing in their new homes!

## TEAM TALK!

### New Partnerships

**Jane & Hearing Dog, Sita:** Sita is a 3 year old Yellow Lab mix, donated from the Humane Society of Clark County. She was partnered with Jane Biehl of North Canton, Ohio in October. Read Jane's touching letter to Sita on the right.



**Juanita & Hearing Dog, Hinkle:** Hinkle, a 1 ½ year old Shih Tzu, was donated to us at 6 months old by a family who couldn't keep him. He was partnered with Juanita Hall of Pomeroy, Ohio in October. Juanita writes, "Hinkle is waking me up every morning with the alarm clock. I trained him to jump on the bed to wake me up. Our family together is working with him in signaling me when Greg or my kids yell out "Mom." He does respond to someone knocking at our front door and the doorbell. We went to a small country store and the Post Office. The employees were fantastic! They thought it was wonderful and encouraged me to come back with Hinkle. I really appreciated it, especially after the access issue I had at the United Dairy Farmers in Cincinnati. I feel so blessed in having Hinkle, and look forward to him learning to signal me to more sounds. Thanks so much for all your hard work and it was a real pleasure spending time with you, Chiaki, Tina and Tracy!"



**Susan & In-Home Service Dog, Nick:** Nick is a 5 year old Black Lab donated by a breeder. Susan says she really appreciates him retrieving things for her, as she is always dropping them. They were just partnered. so look for updates on our website!

### Teams Pass Public Access Tests

Congrats to all our teams who passed their **Public Access Tests** this fall:

-  Bruce Brown and owner-trained service dog, Hannibal
-  Mary Havens and service dog, Haven
-  Marlene Kyler and service dog, Coda
-  Gayle Stanford and service dog, Kedar

### Letter to Sita – My Ears – And More!

By Jane Biehl, PhD, PCC, CRC,MLS

I waited a long time before I decided to try a hearing dog. I have had you for only a month and now wonder how I ever got along without you!

I have lived alone for over 30 years. I knew I was missing phone calls and visitors because of my severe hearing loss. My family had keys and would come in and check on me because I couldn't hear the phone ring. I realized deaf and hard of hearing people were being robbed and even beaten, because they couldn't hear burglars entering the home or their demands once they gained entry. I felt a certain vulnerability working late at night and knowing I would be unable to hear if anyone was behind me or following me to my car. I was missing so much more in the whole environment around me. You could be my link to that environment.

As I drove to Circle Tail for my first meeting, my head swirled with dozens of questions. How long before I would be "matched" with just the right dog? Would I have the patience and understanding it takes to work with a dog so highly trained? Could I in my ignorance "ruin" years of training and thousands of dollars by doing the wrong thing?

I walked into an activities room at Circle Tail and gazed at people and dogs everywhere. Some were pulling wheelchairs, some were climbing over obstacles, and some were crossing simulated bridges. I met the director, Marlys Staley, for a few seconds. Her kind face and calm demeanor immediately impressed me. I found out through the next few months what a caring and competent professional she really is.

Someone brought you to me, Sita, and placed the leash in my hand. You sat back staring at this new person in your life. I saw your warm adoring brown eyes and sweet face and melted instantly. We worked three long hours together going through the obstacle courses, then going outside and walking together.

I admired your beautiful golden coat. Your face had perfect features and you carried your head up high. Your ears laid flat against your head gracefully, except when you were listening intently to unknown sounds. Your keen sense of hearing became apparent as your head constantly turned in the direction of the noises around you. The most outstanding feature about you was your gentle manner and expressive face.

Would you be my "match" or would I have to give you back? I was in a state of anxious anticipation because I felt an immediate kinship, but was afraid to get attached only to have you taken away. After classes were finished, Marlys told me you were mine and I was ecstatic.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Circle Tail was voted runner up for Best Place for Agility/Instruction, and  
"Other Favorites" for Best Overnight Boarding and Best Trainer/Training Class  
in the Ohio Valley Tails Readers Choice Awards 2007!**

### Letter to Sita, continued

I was forced to leave you until I could return for more intense training. A few weeks later I made the long trek back to Circle Tail with great anticipation. I entered the activities room and you ran over, jumping on me. Hearing ear dogs are not supposed to do this, but I think we both knew we had passed the first important step in bonding.

I took you back to the hotel with me that first night. I felt more secure that night than I ever have, because if there was a fire or other emergency you would alert me.

I was fortunate to be in training with another deaf woman who was just wonderful. Her name was Juanita Hall. She had an adorable Shih-Tzu named Hinkle. We formed an immediate friendship and talked nonstop from the first day.

She came in the next morning to Circle Tail and stated she cried the whole way there. She knew now why she felt chronically stressed her entire life for no apparent reason. It was the stress of not knowing what was going on around her. Hinkle relieved that stress for her for the first time ever because she has been deaf from birth. I understood perfectly because I have been hard of hearing from birth too. Many deaf and hard of hearing people are constantly stressed because of the uncertainty about the environment around us. We take it for granted until it is relieved. Our vulnerability becomes such a part of us we don't even measure it.

Sita, a month later I look back and realize that you and I are a duo 24/7. You don't see one without the other. (Is there a song in here somewhere?) I watch your ears constantly perk up as you are super alert to any noise surrounding you. You seem to know it is expected of you. I quietly thank the prisoners for all they did to give me an extra set of ears. You were in a foster home for several months and I have met your foster Mom, Tracy. She tells me you were one of her favorite foster dogs. She describes you as loving, loyal, laid back and sweet.

Three days after you came home with me, we went to court, where you were the center of attention. The magistrate was so charmed she asked for a personal meeting with you. You proudly shook hands (and paws), and went to sleep. You are ready in a nanosecond to go anywhere and do anything with me. You jumped into my crazy schedule immediately, although I sense sometimes how tired you are.

Your alertness has already made me aware of kids' rollerblading behind me on the sidewalk. Your excited circling around me one night alerted me to a terrific wind outside that knocked over my patio furniture. You were so excited the first time you ran to my phone you knocked it off the cradle!

We have experienced funny and touching times together. None of the students where I teach will forget you picking up the leash and bringing it to me when you felt I had lectured too long! You sit patiently as I counsel my troubled preschoolers and they talk to you better than to a human. I will never forget how I tried desperately to entice one of my emotionally challenged preschoolers to smile. He had been the victim of abuse and seen way too many bad things in his young life. He actually laughed out loud when you tried to eat the Play-doh during play therapy. We scrambled together to pick the doh up before it landed in your stomach and he smiled the entire time. You were never trained as a therapy dog, but you have become one.

The downside is that I have experienced an invasion of my privacy never known before. Out of nowhere, children have run up and grabbed you. People relentlessly shout across a restaurant at me. They will stop me when I am shopping or eating out and grill me with dozens of questions. Are you training the dog? What is your disability? Why can't I pet her? You mean you need her? Adults continually ignore the sign on you "do not pet" and disturb you even when you are sleeping. If I stop them, they often get very defensive with me. When I become irritable and tired, I witness your patience. You remain so calm and sweet I figure if you can be so understanding, I can too!

I marvel daily at your gentleness with my children at the practice; your antics around my students at the college; your eagerness to make friends with everyone; your tolerance with my dethroned kitty as she ignores your attempts to become friends; your innate carefulness around my mother to never push or trip her in her walker.

Most of all I witness your forgiveness. You are the first dog they remember at an Ohio State game. We were required to sit in the noisiest section of the stadium. I nearly cried when you started shaking and became so frightened it made you ill. You promptly forgave my ignorance for taking you there, not realizing how the noise would affect a dog who didn't know where to begin to alert me. You didn't want to sleep on the floor next to me that night in a strange hotel. Rather, you crawled into bed by my side because you wanted to touch me.

"Carpe Diem" is your motto. Our spirits are bonded in a love few people can understand. You are first my ears, but have become a part of my heart and my soul.



*Circle Tail, Inc. is a member of  
International Association of  
Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP)*

## Seen & Heard Around Circle Tail...

- 🐕 Volunteers gathered at **Moochie's**, an upscale pet supply store in Kenwood Mall, this fall and winter to promote the programs and services that Circle Tail offers.
- 🐕 Circle Tail volunteers have also been holding adoption events at the **Harley-Davidson of Cincinnati** store. They are a very dog-friendly store and want to promote responsible dog adoption/ ownership. It's always a lot of fun!
- 🐕 Nearly 40 employees from **Ethicon Endo-Surgery** participated in the "Clean Up Circle Tail" event, as part of the company's **Work Days for Community Care Week**. Volunteers came out on 3 separate days this fall to clean and organize the garage, pull weeds, feed the wildlife, paint, spread gravel and put up fencing for outdoor play areas, and of course gave the Circle Tail dogs some much-appreciated attention!



- 🐕 **The 2007 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic** was held in October, coupled with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new training facility. A great big thank you to Cathy Snider and Marlene Wilson for organizing a GREAT event. Thanks also to Caribou Coffee, Meijer, Pepsi, Target, Walmart, and Wild Oats for donating the food and beverages. And thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers for your help – we can't do this without you!

*Cathy & Marlene,  
thanking our corporate  
sponsors*



### Assistance Dog Club of Circle Tail

Membership to the **Assistance Dog Club (ADC)** of Circle Tail is open to Assistance Dog Teams in the tri-state area, whether trained through Circle Tail or not. Visit the ADC website for information on joining the club and to learn about upcoming events and outings at [www.circletail.org](http://www.circletail.org).

**The ADC held several meetings this fall and winter:**

**Choking/Poison Prevention and Actions for Survival in Dogs** in which potentially life-saving information was presented.

The ADC went to **Bass Pro Shops** at Cincinnati Mills in November. Foster families and assistance dog teams shopped and socialized, and 3 teams passed their Public Access Tests!

December's meeting participants discussed **Creative Ways to Exercise Your Canine Partner**. Some fun ideas were presented!



*Above: Volunteers – human & canine – pose at the site of Circle Tail's new training center*

*Below: A toast to our volunteers and to the future of Circle Tail!*



## To All Our Generous Donors – Our Deepest Thanks!

Circle Tail is extremely grateful to all who have supported our programs through their generous contributions. Whether it is through an individual donation, gift in kind, or memorial gift, all contributions are important to Circle Tail so we can continue our work with assistance dogs, and all the dogs and puppies at our facility. Below are contributions from *September 1, 2007 through December 1, 2007*. Please let us know of any omissions or corrections.



### Individual Donors

Bonnie Adducchio  
 Marjolein V. Ancona, D.M.D.  
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 Renee A. Zimmerman

### Celebration Gifts

#### *In honor*

In honor of **Rulon's 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday**, by  
 Jules, Todd, & Simon Brugel  
 In honor of **Marlys & Tollan**, by  
 Angie & Caritas DelGreco  
 In honor of **Linda Ray Rubel & Al  
 McLaughlin**, by  
 Ginger Gandy  
 In honor of **Hayle Petit**, by  
 Constance Mace  
 In honor of **Melissa Watson's  
 Birthday**, by  
 Kim & Charlie Maul  
 In honor of **Jennifer Kiblinger and  
 her furry family members Daisy,  
 Emma, Jasper, & Lily**, by  
 Kathy & Kristin McKeen  
 In honor of **Smudge**, by  
 Todd McMurtry  
 In honor of **Marlene & Coda**, by  
 Janelle Pauer  
 In honor of **C.J. Savage**, by  
 Barbara Tucker  
 In honor of **Cindy Jeromine**, by  
 Mimi Watson & her babies  
 Precious & Jenny  
 Melissa Watson & her babies,  
 Snaves, Gracie, & Lilly  
 In honor of **Skinner**, by  
 Robert & Lauren Woodiwiss

### Memorial Gifts

#### *In loving memory*

In loving memory of **Alex,  
 beloved dog of Linda Ray  
 Rubel & Al McLaughlin**, by  
 Ginger Gandy  
 In loving memory of **Rick  
 Bailey**, by  
 Barbara Kessler  
 In loving memory of **Free,  
 beloved dog**, by  
 Andrea & Aztec Macher  
 In loving memory of **Joan  
 Phelan**, by  
 Debi & Gary Seal  
 In loving memory of **Gus  
 Nakrin, Ceasar Galloway,  
 and Skeeter Jeromine**, by  
 Mimi Watson & her babies  
 Precious & Jenny  
 Melissa Watson & her  
 babies, Snaves, Gracie, &  
 Lilly



Circle Tail thanks **Donna Stoutenborough** and the **Justin Brittain Scholarship Foundation** for the sponsorship of a seizure response dog, in memory of Donna's son, Justin Brittain. This generous donation will make a difference for someone with Justin's condition.

### Gifts In Kind

Debbie Abshire  
 Kevin Bonhaus  
 Sandra Bramley  
 Helen Brigham  
 Christina Colgate  
 Tracy Desch  
 Donna Faulconer  
 Girl Scout Troop 570  
 Girl Scout Troop 8776  
 Cindy Gross  
 Kelly Haas  
 Amy Hillgeman-Alwell  
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 Nancy Nathan & Bryan Sweeney  
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 c/o Shawn Combs, RVT, CCRP  
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 Area  
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 Walker Thompson & Associates, Inc.  
 Wellpoint Associate Givina Program

**Our goal is to provide trained assistance dogs at no cost to qualified recipients. Your support is vital to ensure this service continues!**

*We appreciate any size gift you can give, no matter how large or small.*

**Enclosed is my gift of:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ – General Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ – In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ – In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$2000 – Inmate/dog team sponsorship. Provides financial support for a dog/puppy in training during his/her first year with Circle Tail.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$8000 - Assistance Dog Team Sponsorship

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to view the newsletter online instead of hard copy.

**Full Circle:**

**The Campaign to Achieve  
Circle Tail's Full Potential**

*Enclosed is my donation of*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*I/we pledge to give*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in annual installments of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ over three years

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