



"PARTNERS WITH PAWS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS"

# THE CIRCLE TAIL TIMES

## *A Message From The Executive Director...*

Welcome to the first edition of our 2006 newsletter. With the new year comes a new look to our newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the different sections about the assistance dog teams, dogs available for adoption, and the volunteers who make all of this happen. We are adding several new sections including "Tails from the Inside" which will feature the writings of an inmate canine handler. In addition, we have added two sections to answer your dog health and training questions. So whether you are reading our newsletter for the first time or as a long time supporter, and whether you are reading the newsletter on line or on paper, we hope you enjoy the changes. Send us your comments and suggestions so we can keep you better informed of the "happenings" at Circle Tail.

*Warm winter wishes! Marlys*



*Marlys & Abby*

## Mission Statement:

Circle Tail's 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.



## *Team Talk - New Partnerships*



**Zory**, a 7-year-old Golden Retriever who came to Circle Tail as a family release, was partnered as a facility dog in January at a senior living facility in Kentucky. Zory came to us overweight and with a severe ear infection. After much care, love, and a bit of training, Zory's personality made her a natural fit as a facility dog. Normally a bit reserved when first introduced to new environments, Zory entered the Kentucky facility with her head up and tail wagging. It was as if she decided she'd found the right home at last. Last seen, Zory was introducing herself to the residents of the Alzheimer's unit.

## Check out our new sections...

### **Ask “Dear Abby” The Demo Dog**

We’re excited to announce the introduction of a new section in our newsletter, The Circle Tail Times. “Ask Dear Abby The Demo Dog” will provide you, our supporters, the opportunity to have your questions about dog training, behavior, and health care answered by our professional dog trainers and veterinarians. We’ll feature two or three questions and answers in each newsletter. Email your question to:

[Training@circletail.org](mailto:Training@circletail.org)

Check our newsletters for answers to your questions. We look forward to sharing your questions and answers with our other readers!



**Dear Abby the Demo Dog:** We recently adopted a 2-year-old mixed breed dog named Sarah and she constantly is begging when we are eating dinner. How can we correct this?

Thanks, Ann in Loveland

**Dear Ann in Loveland,**

We dogs do what works. Most likely someone in the past rewarded Sarah for staring at them when they were eating by giving her a piece of food. What you need to do now is make sure no one in the entire family rewards that behavior. Just ignore her stares. The obedience commands of “down” or “place” will also help during dinner. Teach Sarah that if she lies down quietly during dinner, she will get rewarded with some of her food after the humans have eaten. Be consistent and persistent and it will pay off with a dog who goes and lays down patiently during meals.

Till next time, Abby the Demo Dog

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### **“Tails” from the Inside...**

As an inmate in a correctional facility I thought that life was about serving a sentence, going through the daily grind of incarceration and wondering what I would do once released. Then I was introduced to the opportunity of becoming a dog trainer for the Circle Tail program, as well as the chance to enter an apprenticeship program as an animal trainer. Needless to say it was a great change from the daily grind, and I jumped at the chance. I was, of course, a total novice; I didn’t know the difference between a Golden and a Lab, let alone how to put a head halter on a dog. I am quite sure the first dog I trained, Vader, knew more than I did. Soon, however, I was learning, attending regular meetings with Marlys, reading books and getting all the hands-on experience I could ever ask for. My next dog, Euchre, who I had for almost three years, turned out to be the best teacher I ever had. With Euchre, I really learned how to train dogs. Through Euchre, I learned how trained dogs do signal alert, seizure response, service and facility work. Euchre was willing to learn and we learned together.



Now I am very close to being released and I can take my apprenticeship, my five years of Circle Tail experience, and give something back to society through training dogs for those in need. This is my new lease on life, far from daily grind of five years ago. Circle Tail has done so much to change the lives of incarcerated individuals as well as the lives of the dogs they work with.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Inmate Handler at RCI

**‘RUN, ROMP AND PLAY DAILY! EAT WITH GUSTO AND ENTHUSIASM.  
NEVER BITE WHEN A SIMPLE GROWL WILL DO.’**

### *Foster Family Focus*

Tina McKee

Not only is Tina indispensable as Circle Tail’s part-time kennel help, she and her family also foster both shelter dogs and assistance dogs in training.



Tina writes, “Being with the dogs while at Circle Tail makes it clear why foster families are so important. Only when they are allowed to go home with someone does their true personality show, and for the service dogs in training, it’s their chance to practice what they’ve learned. This is why we started fostering.



Scuba, our first foster, now a pampered pet, and his sister Dixie help welcome fosters into our home. From workaholic Hydro (Labradoodle) to Queen Calvo (Chinese Crested / Boston Terrier mix), all need the chance to spend time with loving families who will help complete the cycle of becoming a service dog or someone’s new best friend. Things can get a little crazy with our two dogs and fosters together. Scuba opened a cupboard, stuck his head inside for a look, and along came Calvo, taking her paw and slamming the door shut on Scuba’s head. Then there is Hydro, who not only gets his leash but Scuba’s too, dragging him to the door - poor Scuba! Dixie just sits and watches it all. My husband William, son Jimmy and I look forward to helping more foster dogs in the future.”

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### *Volunteer Spotlight: Janet & Barry Lawson and Family*



Janet writes, “Our family began volunteering at Circle Tail, Inc. in January 2005. Barry, my husband, and I saw a table with info on the organization at the Mason Library and picked up a brochure. The girls immediately fell in love with all the dogs and loved being involved with the animals directly. It’s rewarding to watch a puppy that was six weeks old when you first walked it continue developing in the training program. Our daughter, Casey, adores ‘Tank,’ a black lab that is now full grown and, last we heard, he is doing great in the program! When we have a busy month and can’t make it out to walk dogs, we can do something entirely different. Their needs are varied and flexible. We have volunteered close to 400 total hours and have been involved with many different aspects of the organization. We, as a family, have worked booths at festivals, designed presentation boards, set-up info displays, stuffed & addressed donation envelopes, worked at the facility washing doggie dishes, toys, and laundry,

distributed info sheets to local businesses, vets, libraries, schools, and of course, walked lots of dogs. Our all time record included walking 27 dogs in one afternoon! The girls all time favorite assignment was being ‘elves’ at Christmas and helping Tracy photograph pets with Santa at a local PetsMart store to raise money and awareness for the program. In every situation, the girls were ‘hands-on’ in every way and felt proud to know that they contributed. Kids can make a difference and they don’t have to wait to be adults to get involved! Best of all, it’s great for them to be with people like Marlys, Tracy, and the other volunteers who are motivated, caring, and have a passion for making others’ lives much better and a lot happier! Additionally, we went to Circle Tail and found a ‘new companion’ for our German Shepherd ‘Maxx’ after we had our 16-year-old white shepherd put to sleep during the holidays. Maxx fell in love with a white mixed breed named Lilly. They are incredible together and Maxx is his happy healthy self again!”



*Spotlight Dog for Adoption: Zelek*



*Zelek* is an approximately 1-year-old, 45 pound social butterfly. She gets so excited to be with people, and loves to give kisses. She is recommended for bigger kids who find humor in her and her enthusiasm. She learns new things quickly and likes to be challenged, so if you're interested in a dog with whom you can do a lot of obedience training, *Zelek* might fit the bill! *Zelek* can be dominant with other dogs, so she may do best as the only dog or with another happily submissive dog. She is house trained and knows basic obedience.

## CIRCLE TAIL SERVICES

Circle Tail provides a variety of additional services for the community. See our website at [www.circletail.org](http://www.circletail.org) for more details, or call (513) 877-3325.



⇒ Dog Training, including basic, remedial, and intermediate group classes, remote collar training, and private lessons. Check our website for upcoming dates and times.

⇒ AKC® Canine Good Citizen Testing - Check our website for the next test date and time!

⇒ Training supplies and toys.

⇒ Boarding: Circle Tail emphasizes good manners, activity, and time for appropriate play with other dogs.

⇒ Assistance dog training and certification.



## HAPPY BEGINNINGS

Annie's mom tells her adoption story:

"Annie loves running in the park and chasing after walnuts that have shed from the trees. She spends hours playing with Teddy (our 3-year-old chocolate lab) and loves taking him for a 'walk' (his leash in her teeth). In so many ways she is a delight – sweet, loving, playful, and (we're working on) obedient. Thank you for all that you do and for your loving care of our little girl until we adopted her!"



## Team Talk – Team Updates

**Rita, and Service Dog, Tango:** Rita notes, “Tango is doing well. When we went back to school in the fall, it was as if we had never been away. She loved the snow we had. She plowed through it with her nose, throwing up waves of snow and rolling in it. One day when I took her out in the snow, we had to step over a snow bank to get back on the sidewalk, and I was afraid I would lose my balance. So I gave her the brace command. When I lose my equilibrium like that, I just need to touch something to ground myself. She remembered the command and helped me get over the snow bank. I was so excited, I went back into school and told everyone I saw how proud I was of her! Also, it’s been almost a year since I’ve been in the hospital. I thank Marlys, Circle Tail, and Tango for that.”



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### **Kathy And Service Dog, Nelle:**

Nelle recently proved how service dogs are true heroes! Kathy writes, “On Thursday night, January 12, 2006, Nelle went beyond her training to help me. I had a really bad fall on the way to my car. I could not get up because I had hurt my knee badly. Nelle helped me get into a sitting position and then kissed me. She then ran to a group of people that were coming out of the same place I had previously come out of. I could hear and see her barking and trying to get them to follow her. Eventually they understood and came over to me. Nelle got very close to me and stayed close all the way to the E.R. The E.R. personnel knew Nelle and allowed her to stay close to me. Nelle is my hero!” Congratulations to Nelle, and we wish Kathy a speedy recovery!



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### **Mandy, and Service Dog, Lincoln:**

Mandy and Lincoln recently visited New York City. Lincoln did great with all the traffic, people and noise...but wondered where all the grass was! As long as Mandy is with him, he seems content and loves new places. Mandy’s life has been transformed since Lincoln came into her life, and she can’t imagine not having him at her side. He truly is a member of the family and Mandy’s partner.



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**Facility Dog, Tito:** Kathy Vyrostek of Englewood Manor writes, “Tito is the best thing that ever happened to Englewood Manor! He’s been with us for 2 years. He is so truly loved by everyone (even the cat!). He takes walks on the path to the park behind our building and has a ‘girlfriend,’ a white Westie. She even came to the facility one day for a ‘play date’. We recently had murals painted in our building and the artist has a wonderful one of Tito on a wall where he likes to sit. Wanted you to know how very much we love him and what a truly wonderful addition he has made here for us.”



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**Renee, and Service Dog, Nixa:** Renee reports that Nixa is carrying dirty clothes to the washer and dropping them in, or hands them to her. She knows the difference between the TV remote, cordless phone and ceiling fan remote. She lets Renee know when she’s going to have a shaking spell by being hyper attentive. Renee writes, “I cannot thank you enough for Nixa. There are times when I just well up with tears. Nixa allows me to do things I never thought possible.”



# THE CIRCLE TAIL TIMES

## News & Events

- ⇒ In January, the Executive Director and President of Circle Tail attended the annual Assistance Dogs International conference in San Diego, which provided useful information to help Circle Tail improve our assistance dog program, particularly as we move toward accreditation in the next few years.
- ⇒ Circle Tail again participated in the Santa Paws fundraiser at the Eastgate and Mason PetsMart locations. We took over 150 photos of pets with Santa, and half the proceeds went to Circle Tail. Thank you to the volunteers who played Santa and his Elves!
- ⇒ On January 20, McFadden's Restaurant and Saloon held a Happy Hour fundraiser for Circle Tail. Over 100 people came for free appetizers, reduced drink prices, raffles, and a silent auction, with Circle Tail receiving 100% of the \$10 cover charge. We extend our gratitude to McFadden's, and to Cincy Update ([www.cincyupdate.com](http://www.cincyupdate.com)) for publicizing the event.
- ⇒ Circle Tail welcomes Jen Dalton to the Board of Directors. Jen joined the board in January 2006. With her outgoing personality and skills in marketing and communication, Jen is a welcome addition!
- ⇒ Alex Lattin resigned from the Board of Directors in December 2005 when his career took him to Chicago. We thank Alex for his contributions as a board member and wish him luck in the windy city!

## Assistance Dog Club of Circle Tail

The Assistance Dog Club of Circle Tail (ADC) held meetings in November and January. In November, club members viewed a video, "People Training for Dogs" by dog behavior expert Cesar Milan. The video showed the basics of dog behavior and the importance of establishing rules, boundaries, and limitations. ADC's first meeting of 2006 included a presentation by Barb Burton on the status of current legislative efforts involving access issues for people with assistance dogs. Barb also provided an update on efforts to pass a law in Ohio allowing assistance dogs in training access to public places. To date, ADC has 13 members, including three self-trained assistance dog teams. Seventeen foster families are also involved with the club. Topics planned for the winter/spring months include dog first aid, architectural and construction solutions for people with disabilities, and what to do with an assistance dog during a medical emergency. An outing to CAM is also planned for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

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Gail Waham

*To all our generous  
Donors - our deepest  
thanks!*

## DeLong-Sweet Grant Awarded

The DeLong-Sweet Foundation awarded Circle Tail a generous grant to support the start-up of the Assistance Dog Club of Circle Tail. Funds will be used to cover everything from printing costs of educational materials to snacks and refreshments during meetings.



We are mostly in need of **Dry and Canned Puppy Food**, sponge mops, airline-style dog crates, a sound machine, Clorox, paper towels, and trash bags. See our website for our complete list.



# To All Our Generous Donors - Our Deepest Thanks!

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*In honor of Daisy, Emma,  
 Jasper, & Lily, the best pets  
 anyone could ask for.*  
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*In celebration of  
 Miles Menyhert.*  
 Michael J. Peters  
*In honor of Assistance  
 Dog, Seren.*  
 Fred Plassman  
*In celebration of Pam Sams.*  
 Mary Porter  
*In celebration of Pam Sams.*  
 Karen Staley  
*In honor of Delphine Fitzgerald.*  
 Karen Staley  
*In honor of Larry & Pat Staley.*  
 Larry & Pat Staley  
*In honor of Scott, Julee, Marlys,  
 Darsee, Lori, & Pat.*  
 Judy Studley  
*In celebration of Pam Sams.*  
 Melissa Watson  
*In honor of Kim & Charlie  
 Maull and their 5 babies, Sam  
 & Ashley, the cats and the  
 dogs, Lady Bug, Achilles and  
 Jonah as well as Jim & Linda  
 Huprich, 2 cats Archie &  
 Minnie Pearl, in addition to  
 Molly, a very active yellow lab.*  
 Miriam Watson  
*In honor of Kim & Charlie  
 Maull and their 5 babies, Sam  
 & Ashley, the cats and the dogs,  
 Lady Bug, Achilles and Jonah  
 as well as Melissa, Snaves, and  
 Gracie Watson.*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*In Loving Memory...*  
 Sharon & Laura Abrams  
*In loving memory of  
 Baby Hope Kuennen.*  
 Ronald & Lenora Glassman  
*In memory of Dr. Allan Straus.*  
 Jennifer Kiblinger  
*In loving memory of Tessie Jo  
 beloved Golden Retriever.*  
 Andrea A. Loyola  
*In loving memory of Peenie  
 Culotta, beloved dog.*  
 Lorie, Baker & Willie Luyrink  
*In loving memory of Bella,  
 beloved Golden Retriever.*



**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. For a minimum annual contribution of \$15.00, you can become an official member of Circle Tail and receive our Newsletter along with a membership card.*

**Enclosed is my gift of:** (checks should be made payable to Circle Tail, Inc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25      \_\_\_\_\_ \$50      \_\_\_\_\_ \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500      \_\_\_\_\_ Other :\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$2000-Inmate/puppy team sponsorship provides financial support for a puppy in training during his/her first year of life.

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

Provides financial support for the entire course of an assistance dog's training through partnering with a person with a disability, and follow-up of the team.

**Please send me more information on:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Receiving an Assistance Dog
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fostering a Puppy or Dog
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Opportunities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring an Inmate/Puppy Team
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring an Assistance Dog and Partner Team

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

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