



"Partners with Paws for People with Special Needs"

# The Circle Tail Times

## Mark Your Calendar!



The 2006 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held at Circle Tail on Sunday, October 8. Time to be announced. Join us for food, fun, and fur!

## 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.

## A Message from the Executive Director...

Summer...time for heat, humidity, bugs, bees and vacation!! All of these can lead to danger for your pet. Pets who are elderly, overweight or have a heart or lung problem are more at risk in the hot summer months. Also some breeds of dogs require special monitoring when the temperature rises such as pugs, bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Pekingese, Boston Terriers and Shih Tzus. In this edition of our newsletter we give you tips on how to keep your pet safe and healthy in the summer months. So sit back in the shade with your pet and a cool tall glass of lemonade and large dish of ice water and enjoy reading this edition of the *Circle Tail Times*.

*Warm summer wishes,  
Marlys & Aztec*



## Ask Dear Aztec

*Advice for traveling with your pet...*

Dear Aztec,

Our family is planning to drive to Virginia Beach for our summer vacation. Is there anything special we need to pack or know before taking Max, our 7-year-old black lab, with us on this trip? Thanks!

*Linda, Hamilton, OH*

Dear Linda,

That is a great question because taking Max, who is now middle-aged, on a long road trip with salt water at the end, does take some planning. Here are a few tips to make for a safe trip:

- Consider having a health check up on Max before the trip to make sure no new conditions have surfaced. Also, ensure that Max is current on vaccines, heartworm preventative and flea/tick medication.
- Secure Max in the car with a seat belt or in a crate.
- Make sure you put a leash on Max before opening car doors.
- Max should be wearing current identification on his collar. In addition, if Max isn't microchipped, you might want to consider having that done (contact your Vet or Circle Tail for more information on microchipping your dog).
- Bring along some water from home to minimize stomach upset.
- Keep a pet first aid kit in your car; include an antihistamine in case of bee stings.
- If it is very warm on your vacation, make sure you exercise Max for a shorter period of time in the early morning or evening when it is cooler.
- Make sure Max has access to shade and cool water.
- Never leave Max alone in the car, even for "just a minute". A car can reach 150 degrees in just 15 minutes in the summer.
- After swimming in the ocean, make sure you rinse the saltwater and sand off of Max to prevent skin irritation.
- And keep in mind; sometimes dogs need suntan lotion, too, especially if they have pink skin, light noses and light fur. They can get sunburned and they can even get skin cancer.
- Dogs don't know how hot is too hot, so owners have to make sure they don't get overheated.

### **Summer Safety Tip:**

Don't leave your dog standing on hot asphalt. His or her body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Walk on grass if possible, and keep walks during the hottest part of the day to a minimum.

### **“Tails From the Inside”: A Little Dog Tale**

By Seren, Golden Retriever Service Dog In Training

“I find it my loyal duty to send you this letter of caution. My trainer and I were out for a walk the other day. Feeling a little fatigued I decided to paws for a rest. So, as a tempting stranger approached, dressed in blue with a leather bag slung at his side, I gave him a sway of my golden tail and a flash of my sugar brown eyes which stopped him dead in his tracks – it works every time. As the man commented to my trainer on what a wonderful looking dog he had, I could sense a timid fear in him as he cautiously reached out to pet me, like he's had a dog-gone ruff time of it before.

My trainer wasted no time to brag of my many skills, like opening and closing doors, opening and shutting desk and cabinet drawers to retrieve different articles, carrying shopping bags to the car and into the house, picking up trash and putting it into the trash can, turning on and off light switches.

Not fully convinced, the stranger grunted, ‘Um, impressive! But pigs will fly the day a dog mails letters.’...Well, as you can see by the picture...

I'm not really sure which is worse, a disgruntled postal worker, a flying pig, or a disgruntled postal worker delivering mail on a flying pig. Either way, Heads Up!”

- Seren



### **Congrats to the New Canine Good Citizens!**

Nine handler/dog teams participated in the **AKC® Canine Good Citizen** test at Circle Tail on May 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Congrats to the 4 teams who passed:

Barb, & Black Lab, Vickie  
Catherine & Collie Mix, Isis  
Phyllis, & Golden Retriever, Haven  
Tina, & Sheltie, Tristen

### **Shed Pounds While Walking Homeless Hounds!**

Visit the Circle Tail dogs and get fresh air, exercise, and sunshine – for you and a dog in need!



**“Come to Circle Tail and take me for a walk – it'll be good for both of us!”**

### **Is an Invisible Fence Right for Me and My Dog?**

There are many fencing options available, and long gone are the days where your options were limited to just physical barriers. Pet Containment Fences, commonly known as “invisible fences”, use a transmitter that emits a signal through a wire placed in the ground, which is then read by a receiver collar.

An electronic fence may be good for containing Houdini dogs that can jump or dig through traditional fences; plus you can fence in irregular or heavily wooded yards and can even keep Fido out of the flower beds by wiring around them.

If, however, you have a dog that is aggressive or overly sensitive, underground fencing might not be your best option, especially if your dog is ever left outside unattended. Other animals and children can still get in the yard, even if your dog can't get out. Further, dogs with high prey drive may not mind the shock as they escape to chase that squirrel, but they'll sure hesitate to come back in the yard! Accessories such as battery back-ups or surge protectors will be needed to provide extra protection – otherwise, if the power goes out, the collar won't work.

Weigh the pros and cons of an invisible fence, and decide what will work best in your individual situation. Feel free to contact us at Circle Tail with any questions. If you decide an invisible fence is right for you, find a qualified company that will properly train your dog. For more information regarding invisible fences, contact Christina with Pet Stop Pet Fence™ System, at (513) 561-7867 or visit [www.petstop.com](http://www.petstop.com).

## 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.

### Marlys Receives her Pet Tech Instructor Certification!

An important part of being a caring, conscientious, responsible and loving pet owner is knowing the life saving skills of pet first aid and care. Marlys successfully completed the Pet Tech Instructor Training program in July and is now qualified to teach the Pet Tech family of programs, which includes the four hour First Aid & Care for Your Pets class. Topics highlighted in this class include: CPR, Rescue Breathing, Shock Management, Bleeding, Injury Assessment, Heat/Cold Injuries, and pet care. Coming in September, Circle Tail will begin offering this class to the public so watch for details on our website. And congratulations Marlys, on becoming Pet Tech Instructor #1210!



### Assistance Dog Club of Circle Tail

The **Assistance Dog Club** (ADC) of Circle Tail held three training programs during May, June, and July. Foster mom and Dog Groomer, Tina McKee, presented helpful information on dog grooming and bathing equipment and techniques. Club members learned about proper ear, nail and coat care. In June, ADC members had a chance to do some shopping. The outing was held at Bass Pro Shop, where dogs were exposed to shopping carts, lots of people, and escalators. The Assistance Dogs International Public Access Test (PAT) was also given. Congratulations to **Willma Minnich and her Service Dog, Buddy**, on their successful passing of the PAT! July's meeting was held at the Loveland Bike Trail, where dogs and people alike enjoyed a relaxing walk on the trail. Visit the ADC website for information on joining the club and to learn about upcoming events and outings - [www.circletail.org/ADCofCT/About.htm](http://www.circletail.org/ADCofCT/About.htm).

### Summer Safety Tip

Pets and pools may seem like a perfect match, but it can equal disaster if you don't take proper precautions. Enclose pool areas to prevent free access, and always supervise pets when around the pool.



### Foster Family Focus

Tracy Combs



"I always grew up with dogs but as an adult I wasn't sure how well I'd handle being responsible full-time for another living being. The commitment-phobic cheapskate in me really liked the idea of fostering. I could have the unconditional love, fun and companionship of a dog but without a decade-long commitment or expenses.

I finally turned in my foster application late in the summer of 2003. I brought home Jesse, a newly retired seizure response dog in October 2003 and I was hooked instantly. Even though Jesse already had much more training than I did, he was so patient with me when I'd take him back to Circle Tail each week for the beginner's obedience class with Marlys. I know that class was pretty rudimentary for him but he let me learn how to be a good pack leader at my own pace. Since Jesse, I've been a foster mom to all types of dogs. Some have been rescues; breeders donated some. A few have been service dogs in training; some have been service program dropouts, some are in-between prison programs. Each one of them has been special in his or her own right.

After 2 years of fostering, and swearing I would never adopt a dog for my own, I met Tippett, a newly rescued mom who is part Australian Cattle Dog and part Boxer. I always pictured myself with a big yellow lab, and thought she was the ugliest dog I'd even seen (I jokingly tell people that she's part Hyena, part Dingo). But she won my heart. I got pangs when I'd hear that some prospective parents wanted to meet her. I finally swallowed that lump in my throat and asked to adopt her myself. Tippett's a wonderful housemate and is more than willing to share her bed and her toys with others – so I'm still able to foster other dogs. It's been a wonderful three years and I'm now fostering Seth, my 23<sup>rd</sup> dog!

## TEAM TALK!

### New Assistance Dog Team Partnerships

In June and July, 4 assistance dog teams completed their initial partner training program. The teams came to Circle Tail for 3 full days of intensive training including lecture, demonstrations, reading assignments and videos. On the second day of training, the dogs were paired up with the individuals and hands on training began for the recipients. Following the 3 day program, the teams returned to Circle Tail two additional days the following week and then weekly after that through the end of July.

The following teams participated in the Summer Training Partnership Program:

**Amy** from Cincinnati, with 2½-year-old German Shepherd Dog, **Cortez**

**Kathy** from Lexington, KY, with 2½-year-old Golden Retriever, **Caddy**

**Colonel Jackson** from Sharonville, with almost-2-year-old black Labrador Retriever, **Tank**

**Marlene** from Cleveland with 3-year old Golden Retriever, **Coda**

**Gayle** from Columbus, with 2½-year-old Labrador/Pointer mix, **Kedar**

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**Gayle and Kedar** are regulars at Saturday remedial obedience class, and he is settling in to his new job and Gayle's lifestyle. Gayle reports: "We have determined that Kedar can pick anything up, but if I have a treat he just starts grabbing! He is soooooo food motivated. He's funny because he gets so happy that his mouth is picking up one thing while his tail and his butt are knocking off something from an end table or the coffee table. Maybe I just need a bigger house!"

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**Kathy** also provides an update on **Caddy**: "Caddy's smile charms everyone she meets. I have taught her how to give a get well card to a patient. Caddy takes the card from me, puts her front paws up on the bed and with the card in her mouth she reaches the card to the person.



It puts an amazing smile on the patient's face, and I allow the person to pat Caddy on the head. Caddy looks forward to this activity every day after work and so do I. You guys have given Caddy and I such joy by placing us together."

### Update: Facility Dog, Pax

Golden Retriever Pax resides at Friends Care Community, with the resident cats and his facility "brother" Buddy the Boston Terrier. His gentle demeanor, confident manner and insatiable desire for love and affection has quickly warmed the hearts of virtually everyone who has had contact with him!



### What Makes a Good Assistance Dog?

We're often asked how we select our dogs. There are many **qualities of an ideal assistance dog candidate** that a dog must have. We look for a dog that:

- Is confident, alert and willing to work
- Is friendly to others but seeks direction from his/her handler in all situations
- Walks on a loose leash by your side
- Comes immediately when called; can be trusted off leash
- Does not eat food off of the floor
- Does not beg for food
- Toilets on command, on or off leash
- Remains calm and confident in public situations with distractions, around other animals, when introduced to strangers
- Does not sniff or seek attention from other people or animals in public
- Does not growl or bark in public
- Is not aggressive toward people or other animals
- Is not destructive
- Is comfortable being left alone for short periods of time



## 54 Dogs Were Adopted Between May 1 & July 31, 2006!

### Volunteer Spotlight

Laura Smith

"In the summer of 2001, I was having lunch when I noticed a dog event taking place in the Blue Ash square. I wandered over to find Marlys and Abby giving a demonstration. Anyone who had the pleasure of watching Abby in action will tell you that it was memorable. In June of 2005, I was looking for a dog-advocate organization to become involved with, and I remembered the demonstration. I checked out Circletail.org, attended the volunteer orientation, and have been happily walking dogs for the past year.

One of the most challenging dogs I walked in the first few weeks was Arlo (pictured, right), a young, very energetic lab/golden mix. I was just learning the Gentle Leader (*this loop is supposed to end up where?*) and it was not his idea of a good time to have that 'thing' over his nose.



After about 3 weeks, I walked him in preparation for the arrival of prospective adoptive parents. I wished Arlo luck with his new family, and headed home. When I arrived, my next door neighbor, Ryan, was in his yard with a big grin. 'I got one,' he said. 'One what?' Out from behind his house strolled Arlo. 'Arlo?!' He tipped his head. This was truly an amazing and wonderful situation, but what I've learned in the past year is that, from Abby doing a demo that was still with me four summers later, to Arlo ending up as my neighbor, to all the splendid pairings of deserving canine with fortunate humans, creating amazing and wonderful situations is what Circle Tail is all about."

### Spotlight Dog for Adoption



Hi, I'm Packer, a sweet 2 year old, 15 pound JRT mix! I want to go home with you so I can follow you around! I'm well-minded; give me leadership and direction – and of course plenty of belly rubs – and I'll give you tons of lovin'! I'm a little bossy with other dogs, but after a while I might put up with them if they let me be "The Dog". Plus, I'm already housetrained and know some obedience!

### Happy Beginnings

#### Ridge

Golden Retriever

Ridge's mom writes, "Ridge has been a wonderful addition to the family. He is very busy 'helping' around the house...

determined to get his mommy to pick up after herself! After he and Baker eat, he brings their dishes to me!!

He is such a loving and happy boy.

I brought him to the nursing home that Baker visits to meet the staff and some of the residents. I think he will make a fine therapy dog and will begin his training very soon."



#### Wally



Wally the Black Lab reports, "I am taking a moment from my busy schedule to say hello and let you know that I am well. As you can see, I love to read and I am currently enjoying 'Gone with the Wind'."



#### Summer Safety Tip

If your dog is outside on a hot day, make sure s/he has a shady spot to rest in. Doghouses are not good shelter during the summer as they can trap heat. You may want to fill a child's wading pool with fresh water for your dog to cool off in.

## Seen & Heard Around Circle Tail...

- Volunteer Cathy Snider and her Therapy Dog, Rookie, gave a presentation at the **Support Care / MAG Homes 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Appreciation Picnic** on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Circle Tail supporters had the opportunity to speak with Animal Communicator, **Donetta Zimmerman** while raising funds for the Circle Tail programs. Thank you to Donetta for donating her services.
- Spring and summer mean more outings for our dogs! Circle Tail held educational booths at several local dog festivals, including the ever-popular **West Chester Dog Fest** in June.
- If you've been to Cincinnati-area PetsMart stores lately, maybe you've seen our dedicated volunteers out promoting the adoption option! Our **PetsMart adoption days** allow the dogs to show off for the public and get some good socialization, while increasing awareness of the services offered by Circle Tail.
- Educating companies and individuals about service dogs is a top priority for us – for the benefit of the dogs, the recipients, and our community. Trainer **Maureen May** visited the Cincinnati EPA in July, and shared information with employees on proper interaction with assistance dogs. If you would like a Circle Tail volunteer to do a similar presentation at your business or group, please don't hesitate to contact us!
- After switching weekends due to rainy weather the weekend before, about 25 people from the **GE Elfun** volunteer group showed up to Circle Tail on May 20<sup>th</sup> with their work boots on. They spent the day putting in fence posts for several new off leash play areas for the dogs, cleaning and sanitizing the buildings that house the dogs at night and walking and grooming all the dogs on site. Thanks to all the GE volunteers who took their time to help clean up



**Iams Company** has awarded Circle Tail a generous grant to sponsor 2 assistance dog teams and to provide food for our assistance dogs for the year. Iams has been a vital supporter of the Circle Tail programs for years. We and the dogs of Circle Tail extend a huge **Thank You!**



### Summer Safety Tip

Keep dogs off of lawns that have been chemically treated or fertilized for 24 hours (or according to package instructions), and away from potentially toxic plants and flowers.



### Wish List

We are mostly in need of Sensitive Stomach Dog Food, **Dry and Canned Cat Food** and cat litter for our resident cats, sponge mops, airline-style dog crates, a sound machine, Clorox, paper towels, and trash bags. See our website for our complete list.



### Share Your Pet Tales!

Has there been a special dog in your life you just HAVE to brag about? Submit your story, and we may feature it in our next newsletter! E-mail to [info@circletail.org](mailto:info@circletail.org) or snail-mail to 8834 Carey Lane, Pleasant Plain, OH 45162. Don't forget to include pictures!

## ***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, facility dogs, therapy dogs, and the animals at the shelter. Below are contributions from *May 1 through July 31, 2006*. Please let us know of any omissions or corrections.



### **Individual Donors**

Angela G. DelGreco Fund of  
the Greater Cincinnati  
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### **Memorial Gifts**

*In loving memory*

In loving memory of **My Abby Girl**, by  
Marlys Staley

In loving memory of **Abby**, by  
Stephanie Breneman  
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Jennifer Steinke  
Theresa & Rick Underwood  
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In loving memory of **Ryan & Tara Breneman**, by  
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In loving memory of **Helen Cook**, by  
Mary & Roger Braun  
Kelly Malone  
Susan Watts

In loving memory of **Connie Haynes**, by  
Eagle Street Neighbors  
Kimberly Peters

In loving memory of **William Jenkins**, by  
Stephanie Breneman

In loving memory of **Rose Menyhert**, by  
George Menyhert

In loving memory of **Sydney**,  
beloved Black Lab, by  
Jennifer Kiblinger



### **Celebration Gifts**

*In honor*

In honor of **Cartland Harten**, by  
Tal Laor

In honor of **Jasmine's Adoption Anniversary**, by  
Daniel & Rebecca  
Boesenberg

In honor of **Charlie Maull**, by  
Melissa & Mimi Watson

In honor of **the Petrosky Family**, by  
Melissa Daly



### **Gifts In Kind**

Sophie Bradshaw  
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We thank the **Angie Del Greco Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation** for awarding Circle Tail a grant toward training and support for an Assistance Dog Team. Angie is a former member of the Circle Tail Board of Directors. She was partnered with Signal Dog Sydney in 1998, and with Caritas in 2004 after Syd's retirement.

**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/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. 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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Circle Tail, Inc.  
8834 Carey Lane  
Pleasant Plain, OH 45162  
(513) 877-3325  
www.circletail.org  
info@circletail.org

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