



Annual Report  
2016



## Note from the Executive Director

2016 was an exciting year of program growth for Circle Tail. We began the foundation of our Diabetes Alert Dog (DAD) program by educating our donors and the public about this unique type of service dog, acquiring some new pups for that purpose and education for our staff. The scent lab for training the DADs was up and running by fall and we instituted a Nosework class for the public. Some changes to improve our service dog training and placement rate were more difficult for us to implement, such as decreasing intake of dogs strictly for adoption and eliminating boarding as a service we provide to the public. Our focus narrowed so we could provide the pups and dogs on site more variety of experiences and training on a daily basis. We also purchased multiple pups to improve our success rate with our service/hearing dogs and to look to the future of a breeding program. Improvements around the service dog kennel made for a safer, cleaner and more time efficient year. Improvements included additional sidewalks, fencing and gates, as well as a bridge on the way to the training center. We ended 2016 with approximately 60% more service/hearing dogs in the training program than at the start. We thank all of our donors, volunteers, and staff that helped make this truly a year of growth for the service/hearing dog program and look forward to an even more promising 2017.

Executive Director, Circle Tail, Inc.





## Background

Circle Tail, Inc. was established in February 1997 and received its advanced ruling from the IRS showing Federal 501 (c)(3) non-profit status in November 1997 (EIN: 31-1516490; DLN: 17053349711041). Circle Tail received its final determination as a non-profit public charity on January 11, 2002.

Circle Tail is a multi-faceted organization that:

- Provides high quality service and hearing dogs to people with disabilities. These dogs and the training are provided at no charge to the individual.
- Provides in home service and hearing dogs to adults with disabilities as well as in home companion dogs to children with disabilities at a minimal charge.
- Operates a small shelter, with responsible spay/neuter practices, for career changed service/hearing dogs.
- Strengthens and promotes the human-canine bond in the community by providing dog adoptions, obedience training classes, Pet First Aid/CPR classes and educational programs for the general public.



*Kathleen and Service Dog Rani, partnered in 2016*



## Administrative

Throughout the year, the Circle Tail Board of Directors was comprised of between 9-11 members. The Board conducted 8 board meetings with an average 77% attendance at each meeting. Five vacant board positions remained at the end of 2016.

A volunteer graphic designer revised our logo for a more updated and professional look. The logo was also Trademarked.

In the first part of 2016 we decreased the number of boarding dogs on site so that the staff could spend more quality time with the service/hearing dogs in training. By fall, we eliminated boarding as one of the services we provide to the public.

Monthly e-newsletters were sent out to over 5000 supporters to keep them current on events and happenings at Circle Tail. Circle Tail further reached its supporters through social media including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram increasing the number of followers on each of those platforms.

We continue to be an accredited organization and active voting member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). Circle Tail is very proud of this distinction, as we are one of only 67 accredited organizations in North America.

Circle Tail remains a member of the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP), Little Miami Chamber of Commerce and United Pet Fund. Circle Tail's Executive Director and dog trainer is a member of the International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP) and serves on the IACP Certification Committee. She also continues to be an AKC Canine Good Citizen® Evaluator and a certified PetTech® PetSaver™ Instructor.





## Facility Improvement

Several improvements were made for accessibility and safety both at the kennel and at the training center. An additional sidewalk was poured around the service dog kennel and connected to the parking area and far edge of the outside yards. The play area off the back of the service dog kennel was enclosed and made for a wonderful new exercise yard, especially in inclement weather.

A bridge was constructed over a low area between the service dog kennel and the training center. This bridge has helped keep the kennel assistants, volunteers, visitors and dogs cleaner and drier in the wet weather periods.

An automatic door opener was installed for the accessible bathroom at the training center to provide easy access for our clients in wheelchairs.



*Service dog kennel with fenced yard and bridge to training center*



## Dog Statistics

Number of dogs being cared for on 1/1/16 was 37: Service/hearing dog program-32, shelter dog program-1 and residents-4.

Number of dogs being cared for on 12/31/16 was 59: Service/hearing dog program-51, shelter dog program-4 and residents-4.

Total intake for the year was 110.

### *Dog Intake*

Type	Intake	% of 2016 Intake
Shelter/Rescue Groups	60	55%
Family Release	9	8%
Family Release (previously adopted from CT 4+ mths ago)	2	2%
Strays	2	2%
Born @ CT	7	6%
Breeder Donated	9	8%
Breeder Purchased	18	16%
ADI ABC	3	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Current in System*

	IN	OUT
Current in System as of 1/1/16	37	
Intake	110	
Partnered in Public Service Dogs		4
Adopted/ In Home Assistance/ Companion Dogs		10
Expired		1
Adoption		73

**Current in System as of 1/1/17: 59**



## Service/Hearing Dog Program

**Partnered:**

Assistance: 4 dogs- 1 Hearing, 3 Service  
 In Home Assistance: 5 dogs- 3 Hearing, 2 Service  
 In Home Companion: 0 dogs  
 Facility/Therapy: 3 dogs  
 Detection: 1 dog  
 Therapy Certified: 1 dog

*Working as of 1/9/17*

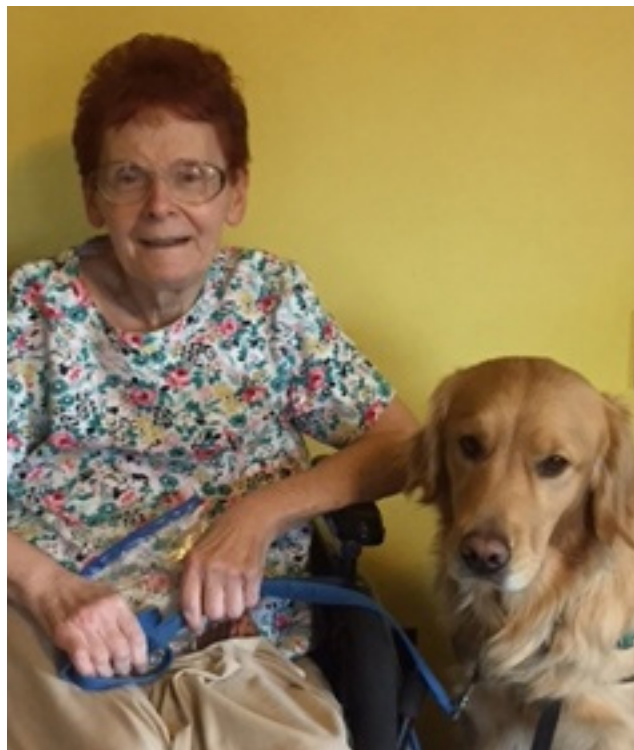
Public Assistance Dogs	Total Placed	Working	% Working
Service	48	16	33%
Hearing	23	7	30%
Seizure	3	0	0%
Psych	13	2	15%
<b>Total Public Access SD</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>In Home Service Dogs</b>			
Service/Hearing	55	47	85%
Companion	17	15	88%
Therapy/Facility	41	33	80%
<b>USDA/Detection</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Therapy Certified</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>62%</b>



*Service pup in training Elsa*



- Three service and 1 hearing dog teams, and 5 in-home service/hearing dogs were partnered this year. In addition, 1 adopted dog became therapy certified, and 3 therapy dogs went to work for a school, hospice and a mayor's office. One dog was adopted to become a detection dog with the USDA.
- A total of 87 service/hearing dog teams, 72 in-home service/hearing/companions and 41 Therapy dogs have been partnered since Circle Tail's inception.
- Two Assistance Dogs International Public Access Tests were completed by Circle Tail assistance dog teams.
- One American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen® Test was conducted. Ten person/dog teams were tested, including several service dogs in training. One Assistance Dog Team and one therapy dog team successfully completed the test.
- An assistance dog outing was once again held at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport. Approximately 15 service/hearing dog teams and dogs in training participated in the outing. The participants had the opportunity to experience going through security, ride on the tram, navigate a variety of odd surfaces and get seated on a plane, all with their dog.
- Circle Tail began a partnership with Putman Elementary School in Blanchester. This partnership will help socialize puppies in training and also teach proper dog etiquette to the students.



*Marlene and service dog Sky*





## ADI Breeding Cooperative

In the last quarter of 2014 Circle Tail became a member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Breeding Cooperative. This Cooperative consists of ADI members who either have large or small breeding programs, those who would like to assist organizations who have breeding programs by whelping litters for them, or who would just like to receive puppies when available. Circle Tail joined at the Host Level which enables us to assist the cooperative by whelping litters from other organizations. This year we received 3 pups through the cooperative: Legend, black lab male, Flex, yellow lab male, and Kimmel, black lab male. We also partnered as a service dog, Rani, who was the first ADI Breeding Cooperative dog that we received.



*ADI Coop pup Rani*



*ADI Coop pup Kimmel with American Airlines Puppies in Flight volunteer Michele*



## Shelter Dog Program

- Since 1999 Circle Tail has adopted over 3600 dogs and puppies into new homes.
- 110 dogs were taken into Circle Tail in 2016.
- 83 dogs were adopted.
- 1 dog was returned, which reflects a < 1% return rate.
- Eight dogs were added to our website as a community service under “courtesy posting” to assist them in finding new homes.
- 0 pups/dogs expired due to health reasons and we had no euthanasia.
- 55% of dogs taken in came from shelters or other rescue groups; 10% were family released; 2% were strays.
- As of 12/31/16 there were 4 dogs in our shelter dog program.
- The adoption committee was comprised of 2 volunteers who helped match the dogs with their new adoptive families.

### *Adoption History*

	2015	2016
Jan	12	3
Feb	17	8
Mar	22	3
Apr	22	14
May	31	5
Jun	14	1
July	9	<b>12</b>
Aug	18	<b>19</b>
Sep	6	<b>4</b>
Oct	17	<b>10</b>
Nov	20	<b>2</b>
Dec	13	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>83</b>

**Adoptions for 2016: 83**

**Total Adoptions since 1999: 3,687**



## Notable Adopted Dogs

- Pierce, a yellow Lab, who was a bit too much to handle as a service dog, passed all testing and went to the USDA Detection Dog training facility in Atlanta, Ga.
- Rae, a Golden/Poodle mix, was placed as a Hospice Dog in a facility in southern Ohio.
- River, a Golden Retriever, made a journey to Pittsburgh, PA to work as the city's official Canine Ambassador at the Office of the Mayor, and keep the city of Pittsburgh smiling.
- Corr, a lab mix, was placed at Collins Elementary in Kentucky. He works as a therapy dog for the Elementary school.



*Hospice Dog Rae and Staff*

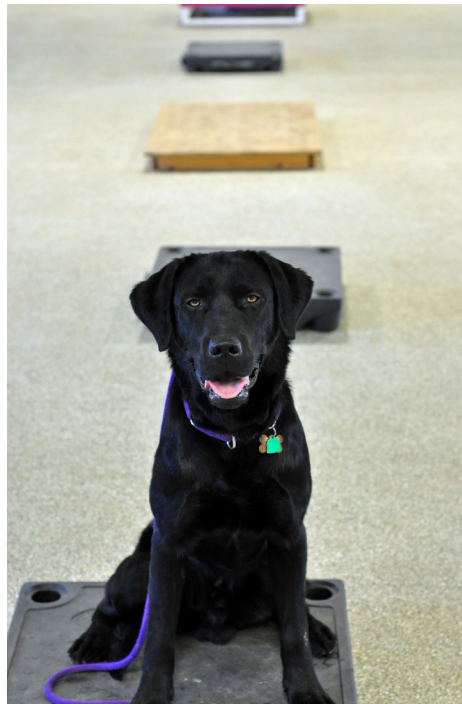


*School Therapy Dog Corr*



## Inmate/Canine Educational Development & Training Program

- The Inmate/Canine program was comprised of two Ohio Correctional Institutions, including Dayton (DCI) and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW). Both are women's facilities. The DCI program now handles 13 dogs and the ORW program can handle up to 15 dogs. The dogs are housed, cared for and trained by the inmates at the correctional facilities.
- Last year, we introduced Yoga and Hoola Hooping to the inmate/dog handlers at DCI. The purpose of the Yoga program was to bring beneficial exercise, movement, and relaxing/stress release techniques to all participants. It also provided a unique training environment for the dogs in order to enhance and reinforce basic training techniques in a calming environment. Hooping also provides exercise and fun for the handlers and a safe, distracting environment for the dogs to practice their commands. This year we introduced the program to the inmate handlers at ORW. They were also provided with free hoola hoops to keep in their dorm.



Service Dog in Training, Landen





## On site Surgical Suite

- Circle Tail entered its 6th year of performing spay/neuter surgeries for our dogs on-site in our fully equipped surgery suite. The surgery suite is located in the Training & Education Center. The surgeries are being performed by Janet Clem, DVM of Cincinnati Animal Medical Center and Ellen Dryer, DVM of Seven Hills Pet Clinic, all on a volunteer basis. The veterinarians are assisted by Circle Tail staff and volunteers.
- In 2016, 44 spays and 40 neuters were performed. No infections were noted while the dogs were on site post surgery.
- The on-site surgery suite continues to provide a low stress surgical experience for our dogs. The dogs are walked up to the surgery suite and are prepared for surgery by people they know. Following surgery they recover in a crate in the surgery suite and later in the day when they are awake, most of them are able to walk back to the kennel for a drink, snack and bedtime.



A few of the pups who have benefitted from the on-site surgery suite



## Grants and Fundraising

Eight grants were received in 2016 including:

- The Scaife Family Foundation for general operating expenses.
- Special People in Need for automatic door opener for the restroom in the training center.
- The Johnson Family Foundation for the start up of the Diabetes Alert Dog program.
- Landen Family Foundation for multiple kennel improvement projects.
- Anonymous for general operating or program expenses.
- Hatton Foundation to support the start of the Diabetes Alert Dog program.
- Pedigree Foundation for general operating expenses.
- Ridgeway Foundation for general operating expenses.



*Kimbr working in scent lab*

In January, to bring awareness to our Diabetes Alert Dog program, attendees were treated to a warm meal and education about diabetes at the Peterloon estate. Guests also enjoyed a tour of the Peterloon home. In March, the sixth Annual Dinner, Art & Wine for Canines event was held at Receptions in Loveland. Three hundred people enjoyed the evening hosted by Amy Tobin of Amy's Table heard on Q102. Our Keynote Speaker was Julie Bauke of the Bauke Group. Other fundraisers included the Flying Pig Marathon charity associate partnership, Fifty West Wag Fest, Old Firehouse Brewery, Arnold's Barks, Beer, & Brunch, PawJoggers 5K, Children's Theatre of Mason production of Annie, and Holiday Pictures at the PetPeople Montgomery store.



*Board President Jen and Therapy Dog Nova at fundraising event*



## Community Outreach Activities

- Circle Tail volunteers participated in over 13 local pet or health related events.
- Volunteers presented approximately 25 educational programs about assistance dogs to a variety of local service and support groups, including ladies groups, auxiliaries, pre vet students, retirement centers, Girl Scout troops, libraries, schools and other organizations.
- Three times a month, a Circle Tail volunteer took a dog for adoption or an assistance dog in training to the local PetPeople pet stores. She provided the customers with information regarding responsible pet ownership, service/hearing dogs, as well as promoting Circle Tail's services to the community.
- Circle Tail established a relationship with the local Dragonfly organization. Four times this year volunteers took dogs to interact with the children at their facility. The children enjoyed petting and playing with the dogs and the service dogs in training had a great socialization event.
- Circle Tail volunteers appeared on three TV news segments and one radio talk show informing the audiences about the programs of Circle Tail.
- Circle Tail opened the Training Center and play yard for the fifth year to the local Clover Canines 4-H club. Approximately 20 children and their dogs accompanied by the 4-H club leaders and some of the parents participated in the "sleep over" event. Games, food and fun were had by all the participants and Circle Tail received some much needed items off their wish list in return.
- Basic, intermediate and remedial dog training classes continued to be offered to the community. An additional basic obedience class was added on Tuesday nights and an additional remedial class was added on Wednesday nights to accommodate more of our community members and volunteers. In addition, we provided numerous private lessons and 5 Pet First Aid/CPR classes which included one at a Veterinarians office and one at a high school in Kentucky.
- We began offering a new class, Nosework. Nosework is a fun search and scenting activity that allows a dog to develop his natural scenting abilities. This sport was modeled after the professional detection dog and search and rescue dog tasks. The team of handler/dog works together to locate a hidden target odor. This activity is easy to learn and can be done by virtually any dog and person. It can help build confidence and focus in a dog and provide much needed mental and physical exercise. Proceeds from this class help support the training of the Diabetes Alert Dogs.
- On Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, Circle Tail held its eighth annual memorial service, in the Memorial Garden, for those companion animals that have passed. Those present shared happy memories of times with their pet and those who could not attend had their pet/assistance dog's name read aloud in remembrance.



## Volunteers

- A network of volunteers continued to support Circle Tail's mission by participating in exercise, socialization and training of the dogs onsite at Circle Tail and by assisting at off- site events such as dog related festivals and educational programs to community groups. Volunteers logged over 25,700 volunteer hours.
- Volunteer orientation was held at least once a month and twice a month in the summer. We revised our volunteer orientation and on-site dog-handling training to make them more efficient and improve the volunteer experience.
- Four "work days" were attended by community volunteers. The Go Cincinnati group helped with the spring clean up by weeding flower beds, spreading mulch and planting new flowers. A team from Ethicon assisted Circle Tail by building a bridge between the service dog kennel and the training center. This bridge goes over a low part that routinely is wet during most of the year. Board members tackled a multi-day project of clearing the area by the service dog kennel so fencing for a play yard could be installed. Volunteers from South Lebanon Elementary assisted Circle Tail by doing some general cleaning, sorting newspaper and playing with pups.
- Ten foster families routinely assisted with housing and socializing our dogs/pups this year. Dogs and puppies were placed with the foster families to help socialize them, teach house manners and reinforce obedience training, paving the way towards life as an assistance dog or well mannered family pet.
- Healing Touch for Animals (HTA) practitioners volunteered twice a month to help the Circle Tail dogs have a more balanced energy system. HTA techniques help the dogs focus on training and adjust more readily to the kennel environment. The HTA practitioners now use the "Quiet Room" at the service dog kennel to work on the service dogs in training.
- 2 local High School students chose their Capstone project to benefit Circle Tail. One young lady painted milk bottles and filled them with dog biscuits and sold them at local farmers markets as a fundraiser. Each bottle had a Circle Tail information card on it to increase awareness of our programs. The other student built a piece of agility equipment for the dogs. The platform with two ramps and a tunnel underneath is now in our training center play yard and the dogs enjoy it every day.



*Volunteers helping to socialize pups*



## Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2016

### ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 51,419
Investments	218,203
Inventory	9,411
Other Current Assets	50
Total current assets	279,083
Property and Equipment	
Land	30,000
Building	674,411
Furniture and Equipment	62,586
Leasehold Improvements	104,029
	871,026
Less accumulated depreciation	263,723
Total Property and Equipment	607,303
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 886,386</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,064
Accrued payroll and employee withholdings	3,973
Accrued expenses	173
Total Current Liabilities	6,210
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,210</b>
 <b>Net Assets:</b>	
Unrestricted	842,299
Temporarily Restricted	37,877
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>880,176</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 886,386</b>

Not Audited



## Board Members and Senior Leadership

Name	Affiliation	Board of Directors Info
Marlys Staley	Executive Director, Circle Tail, Inc.	Executive Director, Non-Voting
Dean Clarke, CPCU, AIA	Divisional Vice President, Great American Insurance Company	Vice President, Acting Treasurer
Marcy Clarke	Accounts Receivable, Wetherington Golf & Country Club	Secretary
John Donovan	Senior Software Engineer, Cerner	
Guy Guckenberger	Hamilton County Judge (Retired)	
Scott Keating	Sr. Manager - Supply Chain and Logistics, Cincinnati Bell	
Jen Kiblinger	Scientific Affairs Manager, Diapharma	President
Kathleen Putman	Groomer, Petz Wash	
Cathy Snider, Ph.D.	Medicinal Chemist (Retired)	
Caren Welborne	Senior Project Manager, Worldwide Clinical Trials	
Stephanie Wright	Sales Manger, WestRock	