



Note from the Executive Director

2020 was a year of virtually everything: incredible campus improvements and incredible challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year we had to change our way of doing things at Circle Tail, including not only how we raised, trained, and partnered our service dogs, but how we managed volunteers and staff and how we interacted with the public in our training classes and fundraising activities. We met these challenges and moved into the virtual world of interacting with our board, clients, and supporters, as well as moved into our new facility, The Landen Learning Center (LLC). The LLC was completed in August and we slowly moved in over the rest of the year.

During 2020, our in-person service/facility dog training and follow up was put on hold for several months, but we maintained contact and provided education to our teams and teams- in-training via Zoom meetings. Pet dog training classes also halted for approximately 3 months; we then resumed classes of smaller size outside. Most of our fundraisers were cancelled, yet we held our first ever virtual fundraiser in September.

We definitely missed seeing all the friends of Circle Tail this year. We appreciate the support that was provided to us throughout the year, from all of you, and we look forward to a healthy and safe 2021.

Marlyp Staley

Executive Director, Circle Tail, Inc.





Report of Activities - 2020

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 was first accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) in 2008 and was reaccredited in 2013 and again in 2018.

Circle Tail is a multi-faceted organization that provides:

- High quality service and hearing dogs to people with disabilities. These dogs, the recipient training and lifetime follow up are provided at no charge to the individual.
- Facility dogs to schools, courthouses, and other agencies at a minimal charge.
- 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.
- Adoption options for career changed service/hearing dogs.
- Strengthening of the human-canine bond in the community by providing a variety of dog training classes, Pet First Aid/CPR classes and educational programs for the general public.



Circle Tail Facility Dogs positively impact our local schools!



Administrative

Throughout the year, the Circle Tail Board of Directors was comprised of between 10 – 12 members. The Board conducted 8 board meetings, 3 in person and 5 via Zoom, with an average of 95% meeting attendance. Three vacant board positions remained at the end of 2020.

Board of Directors Roster as of 12/31/2020

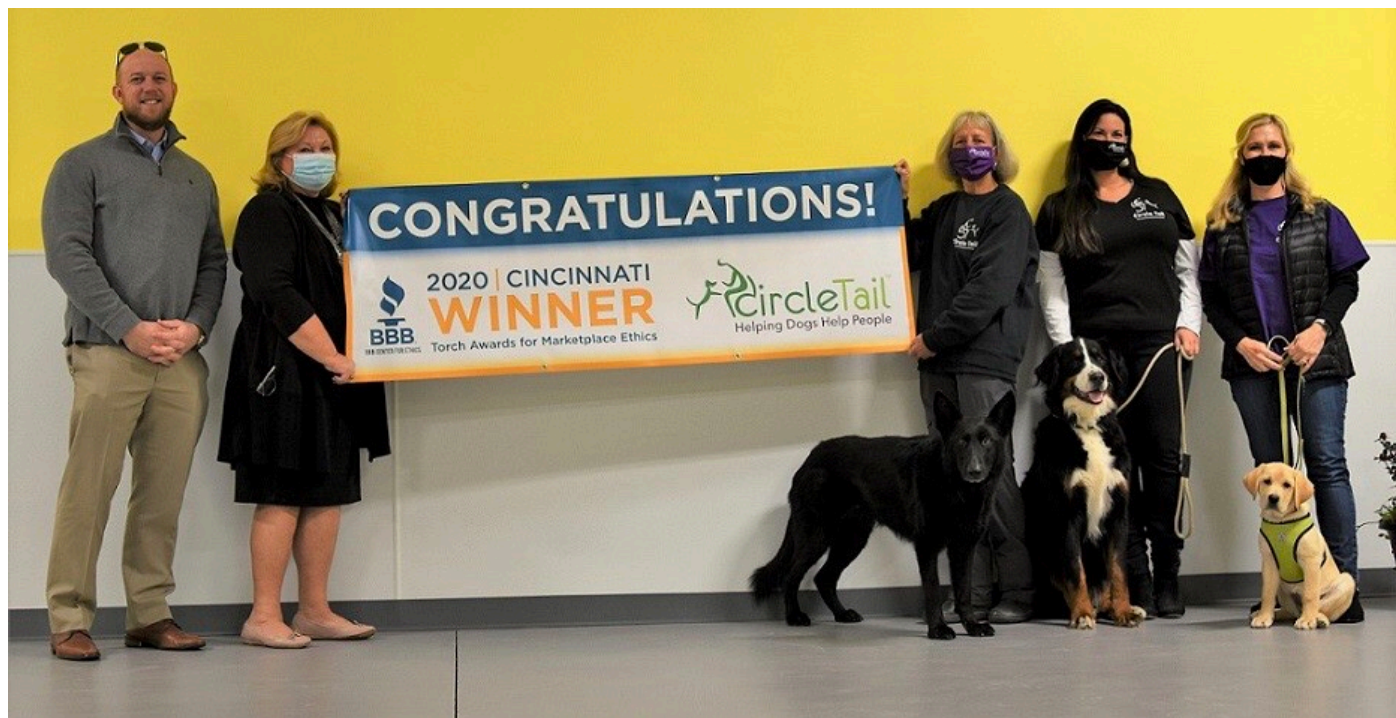
Name	Affiliation	Role
Marlys Staley	Executive Director Circle Tail, Inc.	Executive Director Non-voting
Matt A. Cook	Compensation Consultant U.S. Bank	Member
Guy Guckenberger	Hamilton County Judge (Retired)	Vice President
William Holder	MilliporeSigma Associate Director, Controlling	Treasurer
Jennifer Kiblinger	Scientific Director DiaPharma Group, Inc.	President
Michael Kuntz	Certified Public Accountant	Member
Pat Lillie	Relationship Mgr. Wells Fargo	Member
Jackie Napp	Audit Manager BKD, LLP	Member
Gena Stonefield	Mortgage Senior Sales First Financial Bank	Member
Janelle Tucker	Head of Consumer Customer Experience Fifth Third Bank	Secretary
Caren Welborne	Director, Project Management, Worldwide Clinical Trials.	Member
Max Yamson	Executive Director Camp Livingston	Member
V. Ruth Klette	Attorney Klette Klette Mauntel	Member

Monthly e-newsletters were sent out to over 5,000 supporters to keep them current on events and happenings at Circle Tail. Circle Tail further reached its supporters through social media including Facebook, with over 6,800 followers, Twitter, and Instagram. We also have closed Facebook groups to keep fosters, volunteers, and schools with facility dogs up to date on Circle Tail events and training tips.

To better meet our clients and supporters needs, we upgraded our technology to provide zoom meetings, remote training sessions and work remotely.

Circle Tail continues to receive the seal of transparency by being at the **Guide Star Platinum Level**.

Circle Tail is proud to have become a **BBB Accredited Charity in 2019**. This means that Circle Tail meets all 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability. In addition, Circle Tail was honored to receive the **BBB Center for Ethics Torch Award**, awarded to organizations that have outstanding workplace ethics.



Circle Tail remains an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International, 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). She also continues to be an AKC Canine Good Citizen® Evaluator and a certified PetTech® PetSaver™ Instructor.



CT Ambassadors Tica and Miles

Facility Improvement

In September, construction of the long-awaited Landen Learning Center was complete and we began to occupy the building. This was an overwhelming achievement after several years of planning and 11 months of construction. This phase of our campus upgrade consists of a new kennel/training facility to provide a more comfortable environment for our dogs, staff and volunteers, and increase our capacity and impact in the community. The facility consists of 3 bays of 12 kennel runs with in-floor heat and skylights to provide comfortable housing for our assistance dogs in training. Additionally, there are 2 large exercise/training gyms, 3 individual training rooms, a staff/volunteer lounge and a restroom. The indoor exercise, training and socialization rooms allow the dogs to enjoy movement and people attention even in inclement weather.



Dog Statistics

Number of dogs being cared for on 1/1/20 was 58: Service/hearing dog program-53, dog adoption program-0 and residents-5.

Number of dogs being cared for on 12/31/20 was 87: Service/hearing dog program-82, dog adoption program-0 and residents-5.

Total intake for the year was 66.

DOG INTAKE

Type	Intake	% of 2020 Intake
Shelter/ Rescue Groups	0	0%
Family Release	0	0%
Strays	0	0%
Born @ CT	49	74.2%
Breeder Donated	0	0%
Breeder Purchased	5	7.6%
ADI Co-Op	11	16.7%
Co-Owned	0	0%
Retired/Service Dogs Returned to CT	1	1.5%
Total	66	100%

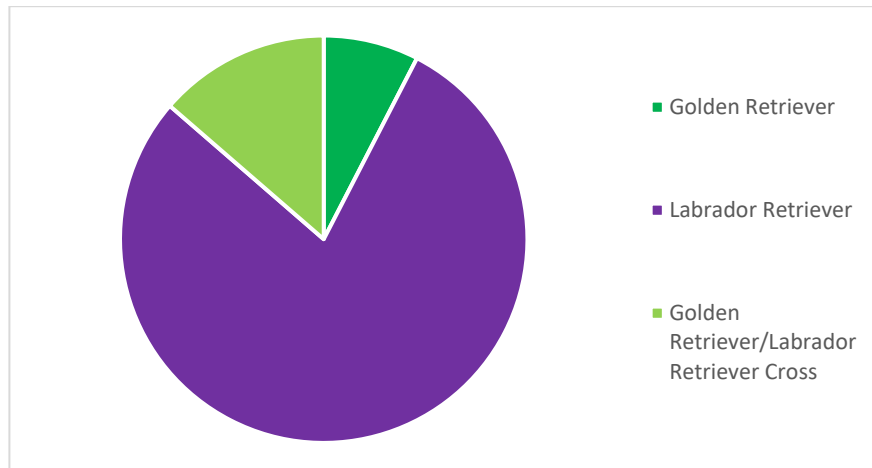
	IN	OUT
Current in System as of 1/1/20	58	0
Intake	66	0
Partnered In Public Service Dogs	0	4
In-home Assistance/ Companion Dog/Therapy	0	0
Facility Dog	0	8
USDA/SAR	0	0
Sent to ADI Service Dog Organizations	0	5
Expired	0	0
Adoption	0	13
Returned to Owner/Breeder	0	7
Returned to Shelter	0	0
Returned to Family	0	0

Total IN	124	0
Total OUT	0	37

Current in system as of 12/31/20: 87

Intake by Breed

Breed	Counts	%		Counts	%
Purebred			Cross or Mix		
Golden Retriever	5	7.6%	Golden Retriever/Labrador Retriever Cross	9	13.6%
Labrador Retriever	52	78.8%	Labrador Retriever / Poodle Cross	0	0%
Total	57		Total	9	



Service/Hearing Dog Program

PARTNERED:

Public Assistance: 4 dogs -- 3 Service, 1 Hearing

Facility Dogs: 8 dogs

In Home Assistance: 0 dogs

In Home Companion: 0 dogs

Detection: 0 dogs

Therapy Registered: 0 dogs



Assistance and Facility Dogs Working as of: 12/31/20

Public Access Dogs	Total Placed	Working	% Working
Service	74	17	22.9%
Hearing	25	5	20%
Total	99	22	22.2%
	Total Placed	Working	% Working
In Home Service/Hearing	76	11	14.5%
Facility	62	17	27.4%
Total	138	28	20.3%

Special Placements	Total Placed
USDA Detection Dog / Search & Rescue Dog	13
Therapy Registered	13
Total	26

- Three public access service dogs and 1 public access hearing dog were partnered this year. In addition, 8 facility dogs were placed in local schools to provide therapeutic interventions to children in need.
- A total of 99 public access service/hearing dog teams, 76 in-home service/hearing dogs and 62 facility dogs have been partnered since Circle Tail's inception in 1997.
- Three Assistance Dogs International Public Access Tests were completed by Circle Tail assistance dog teams.
- Due to COVID-19, no American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen® Tests were conducted.
- On-site training for our teams and teams in training was halted in March and recommenced in June. Training was held outside, with proper social distancing and masks. We also initiated Zoom meetings for our teams and teams in training. Meetings were held for not only our service/hearing dog teams, but also those working on their training hours before placement with a dog and our facility dog handlers.
- MedVet graciously provided 6 eye exams for dogs in training at no cost even though the AVCO service dog eye exams were cancelled this year due to COVID-19. All the dogs passed their testing.



Breeding Program

Circle Tail whelped 7 litters with a resultant 49 live births. Three whelps were CT breeders, 2 were ADI Breeding Cooperative, and 2 were CT/Ridgeview co-owned breeders.

ADI Breeding Cooperative:

Circle Tail continues as a member of Assistance Dogs International Breeding Cooperative (ABC). 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 those who would just like to receive puppies when available. Circle Tail participates at the Host Level which enables us to assist the cooperative by whelping litters from other organizations. This year we received 4 additional pups through the cooperative.

CT had 2 litters for ABC:

- CT Bradie, a black lab, was bred to CT Rosser. Bradie had 9 pups and 4 pups were transferred to other ABC schools.
- CT Kaira, a black lab, was bred to SSD Amadeus. Kaira had 8 pups and 4 pups were transferred to other ABC schools.

Bradie was spayed after she completed care of her litter and continued training in the service dog program.

Circle Tail Breeding:

Circle Tail had 3 litters from their own breeding program this year:

- CT Britt, a yellow lab, was bred to CT Braxton. Britt had 5 pups.
- CT Britt was bred to PWP Usher. She had 8 pups in this litter.
- CT Kula, a yellow lab/GR cross, was bred to CT Rosser. Kula had 7 pups.

Two breeding females are co-owned with Ridgeview Labradors. Juki, a yellow lab, had 7 pups and CT retained 3 for the service dog program. Elka, a yellow lab, had 5 pups and CT retained 3 for the service dog program.

Juki retired after her last litter and was returned to Ridgeview Labradors for pet placement.



Regional Breeding Cooperative:

Circle Tail has been pleased to work with 3 other ADI accredited service dog organizations in relatively close proximity to us, to work on best practices for our organizations. Through this group effort, CT Braxton bred two females in the co-op. Circle Tail received a pup from each of the litters. Through semiannual Zoom meetings and google drive documents, members keep each other apprised of needs and available pups so that we can help each other produce more quality working dogs.

Breeding Program Summary	
Circle Tail Breeders Whelp	3
CT/Ridgeview Co own Breeders Whelp	2
Breeder Whelp Host	0
Other SD Org. Whelp Host	0
ADI Breeding Co-Op Whelp Host	2
# Pups Born	49
# Pups Kept for CT	35

Career Changed Dogs**ADOPTION HISTORY**

Adoptions for 2020: 13

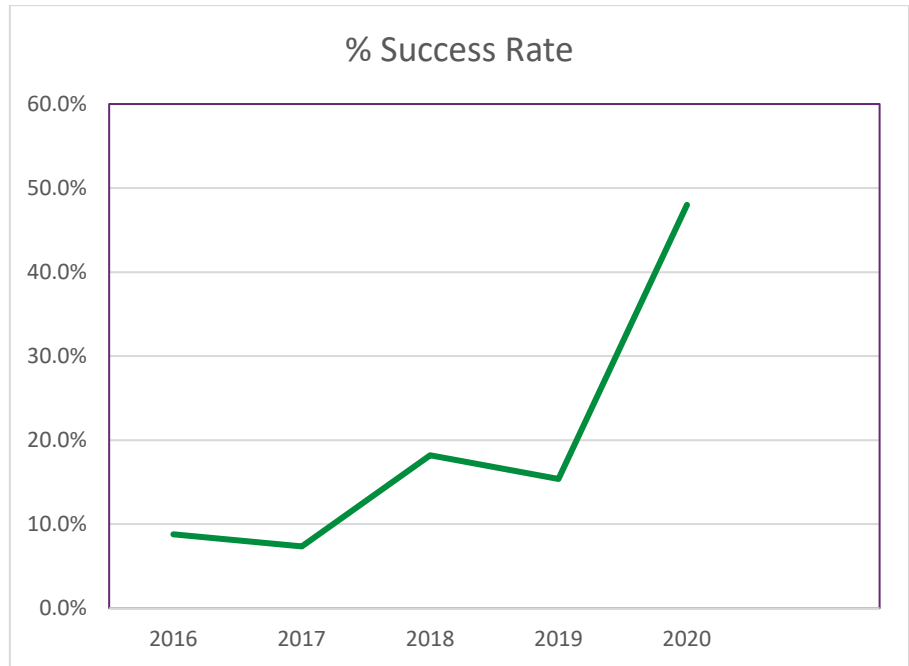
Total Adoptions since 1999: 3,834

	2019	2020
Jan	3	0
Feb	0	0
Mar	4	0
Apr	0	3
May	1	1
Jun	1	1
July	5	0
Aug	2	5
Sep	7	1
Oct	3	0
Nov	3	1
Dec	5	1
Total	34	13

- Since 1999, Circle Tail has adopted over 3,800 dogs and puppies into new homes.
- In 2020, 13 dogs were adopted.
- 2 dogs were added to our website as a community service under “courtesy posting” to assist them in finding new homes.

Partnership Success Rate

Year	% Success Rate
2016	8.8%
2017	7.4%
2018	18.2%
2019	15.4%
2020	48.0%



Inmate/Canine Educational Development and Training Program

Circle Tail partners with the Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to teach inmates dog care and handling skills through caring for and training service dogs in training. The Inmate/Canine program is comprised of two Ohio Correctional Institutions, including Dayton (DCI) and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW). Both are women's facilities and both programs can house up to 14 dogs each. This year the average census was 24 dogs/month being housed, cared for and trained by the inmates at the correctional facilities. Starting in March we were no longer allowed to go into the facilities due to COVID-19, but were allowed to exchange dogs and provide supplies for their care. We continued our guidance and training with the inmate handlers via Zoom meetings and conference calls.



On-site Surgical Suite

- Circle Tail continues to have volunteer veterinarians provide onsite spay/neuter surgeries for our dogs in our fully equipped surgery suite. The surgery suite is located in the Training & Education Center. The surgeries are performed by Janet Clem, DVM of Cincinnati Animal Medical Center, all on a volunteer basis. The veterinarians are assisted by Circle Tail staff and volunteers.
- In 2020, 18 spays and 22 neuters were performed. No infections were noted while the dogs were on-site post-surgery.
- We had one emergency C-section performed this year. The surgery went well for the mom and all pups survived.
- 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 then later in the day when they are awake, most of them can walk back to the kennel for a drink, snack and bedtime.

Grants and Fundraising

Circle Tail was privileged to receive the following supporting grants in 2020:

- Fidelity Charitable Gift fund: 4 donor advised funds for general operating expenses.
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation: 2 donor advised funds for general program support.
- Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation in support of the facility dog breeding program.
- Dayton Foundation Depository, Inc.: 2 donor advised funds for general operating expenses.
- Landen Family Foundation matching grant support for the new kennel/training facility.
- Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation in support of new kennel/training facility.
- Middletown Community Foundation in support of the new kennel/training facility.
- The Lennart Erickson Foundation for general program support.
- The Latham Foundation for general program support.
- William Dean Charitable Foundation in support of the new kennel/training facility.
- Schwab Charitable donor advised funds for general program support.
- Warren County Economic Development Cares Grant.

Thank you to our team of volunteers who writes the grants and to all the individuals and foundations who supported Circle Tail during this difficult year.



In January, Circle Tail held two Brewery events to raise awareness of Circle Tail and provide the service dogs in training a unique training opportunity. By March, our ability to hold events came to an abrupt halt as COVID-19 took over. Days before we were to hold our 10th Annual Dinner, Art & Wine for Canines, group gatherings were banned and we sadly had to cancel our event. With help from volunteers and a great audience of supporters, we did successfully have our first ever Dinner, Art & Wine for Canines virtual event in September.

Community Outreach Activities

- From January through mid-March, Circle Tail volunteers participated in 8 local community events including visitations to the local elementary school, CVG and Dragon Fly. In mid-March, all events were cancelled due to COVID-19 and we did not participate in others in person the remainder of the year.
- Media:
 - We continued our Monthly email newsletter to our community and donors to keep them up to date on the activities at Circle Tail. This was more important this year since off-site events and visitors were restricted.
 - We were privileged to have multiple TV and online articles written out the Circle Tail facility dogs and how they were changing the lives of our local students even during this year of mostly remote learning.
- Basic, intermediate, and remedial dog training classes as well as nosework classes continued to be offered to the community until March. Slowly some classes restarted mid-May with outside training, social distancing and participants wearing masks. Through virtual and in person training we were still able to assist approximately 425 people have a better relationship with their pet dog.
- On Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, Circle Tail held its 12th annual memorial service, in the Memorial Garden, for those companion animals that have passed. The event was videotaped this year and shared on our FB page since on site visitors were not being allowed at that time.



Volunteers

- While on site volunteering ceased for several months, it slowly opened back up the second half of the year. Volunteers were scheduled one at a time for training and no more than 2 volunteers were on site at any time. Volunteers were very good about staying outside, social distancing with staff and wearing masks. While off site and on-site events and speaking engagements were cancelled, we did have an increase in overall volunteer foster families. We averaged over 32 foster families a month as compared to 10 the previous year. Also, we typically have had 3 weekend fosters and that increased to 10. Most of the training was done virtually and one on one, outside and socially distanced. Volunteers logged over 71,000 service hours.
- An information session with a campus tour was held the first 3 months of 2020 and then were halted until July, when we resumed the information session via Zoom. Tours were not restarted.
- Work days this year consisted of a wish list drive by Little Miami High School National Honor society and the Mount Notre Dame Service-Learning Class volunteers came out numerous times to help keep the Circle Tail training center clean.
- One young man completed his Eagle Scout project by making attractive receptacles for dog waste and a small piece of agility equipment for the pups.

