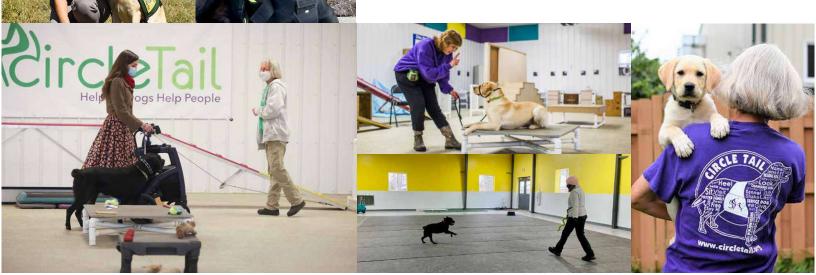




ANNUAL REPORT - 2021



ABOUT CIRCLE TAIL

Circle Tail is a volunteer based organization, which relies on services, talents and generosity of many caring and giving volunteers to successfully meet the goal of partnering quality service dogs with people in need. Established in 1997, Circle Tail is a multi-faceted non-profit organization located 30 miles northeast of downtown Cincinnati providing:

- **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.
- 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 continues to receive the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, which is awarded to organizations that achieve the highlest level of transparency within the GuideStar framework. GuideStar seeks to provide donors with detailed information to aid them in their search for trusted organizations. In order to reach Platinum Level, Circle Tail provides information about its organization and practices regularly, including its strategy, goals, KPIs, financials, board information, and more.

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.

FEBRUARY 1997

Circle Tail, Inc. was established, receiving its advanced ruling from the IRS showing Federal 501(c)(3) non-profit status in November

FEBRUARY 2008

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

JANUARY 11, 2002

Circle Tail received its final determination as a non-profit public charity

2019

Circle Tail became a BBB Accredited Charity meaning that the organization meets all 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountabilty. Additionally, Circle Tail was honored with the BBB Center for Ethics Torch Award, for organizations with outstanding workplace ethics







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volunteer@circletail.org



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@circletailinc



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MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

In 2021, Circle Tail's Board of Directors revised and updated the organization's mission statement and strengthened its commitment to the community and its dogs by defining its vision and core values.

Mission

Circle Tail's mission is to empower, educate, and inspire individuals and communities through professional training and partnership of highly skilled service-oriented dogs.

Vision

To be a leader in improving quality of life by unlocking human-canine partnership potential.

Core Values

- ACCESS: We seek to deliver freedom and accessibility to all by understanding different individuals and
 group needs and we believe that everyone should have access to a partnership. We are flexible and
 adjust our staffing, training, etc. to meet the needs of our dogs and community, without compromising
 the integrity of the dog-human relationship.
- RESPECT: We are caring and compassionate, giving each partner the respect and attention they deserve.
- DEDICATION: We are dedicated to finding the right job for the dog and the right dog for the person, creating a team in which both dog and human excel. We are available and committed to providing lifetime support of the team.
- PARTNERSHIP: We are a strong partner to our teams, staff, volunteers, and our network of agencies, communities, and individuals. We create reciprocal relationships and strive for excellence in our delivery of long-lasting, quality partnerships.
- INTEGRITY: We are knowledgeable, committed to excellence, and act with integrity. We hold ourselves to the highest industry standards and ethics and maintain transparency in our breeding and training. We are patient in our training and placement to ensure success of the process.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Circle Tail,

During 2021, our successful Facility Dog program continued with an additional 11 dogs being placed in our local schools. After moving into the Landen Learning Center, campus improvements continued outside, focusing on accessibility to all areas of the campus, and beautifying the grounds, making them safer and more inviting.

Sidewalks and walking trails, paved parking and driveway, new fencing and play yards, native trees and bushes are just a few of the improvements. As our communities begin to reopen, we look forward to having all of you visit and see the new look of Circle Tail.



Warm Wishes,

Marlys Staley

Marlys Staley

Executive Director, Circle Tail, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

Throughout the year, the Circle Tail Board of Directors was comprised of between 9-10 members. The Board conducted eight board meetings, five via Zoom and three hybrid, with an average of 89% meeting attendance. Three vacant board positions remained at the end of 2021.

Name	Role	Affiliation
Marlys Staley	Executive Director, Non-Voting	Executive Director, Circle Tail, Inc.
Jen Kiblinger	President	Scientific Director, DiaPharma Group, Inc.
Gena Stonefield	Vice President	Director, Mortgage Sales, First Financial Bank
Jackie Napp	Treasurer	Audit Manager, BKD, LLP
Janelle Tucker	Secretary	Head of Consumer Customer Experience, Fifth Third Bank
Matt A. Cook	Member	Compensation Consultant, U.S. Bank
Aly DeBlasis	Member	Marketing Manager, Fifth Third Bank
V. Ruth Klette	Member	Attorney, Klette Klette Mauntel
Patrick Lillie	Member	Relationship Manager, Wells Fargo
Caren Welborne	Member	Director, Project Management, dMed-Clinipace
Max Yamson	Member	Executive Director, Camp Livingston

Newsletters and social media keep supporters, voluteers, and foster families engaged

Circle Tail engages over 5,000 supporters via monthly email newsletters to keep them current on events and happenings at Circle Tail. Circle Tail further reaches its supporters through social media including Facebook, with over 7,800 followers, Twitter, and Instagram.

The organization also leverages closed Facebook groups to keep fosters families volunteers, and schools with Facility Dogs up to date on Circle Tail events and training tips.

To better meet its clients and supporters needs, the organization upgraded its technology to provide Zoom meetings, remote training sessions and remote work as necessary. This has been more inmportant than ever given COVID restrictions and limitations around visitors and on-site events.



SUBSCRIBE TO THE MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

To be added to Circle Tail's monthly email newsletter distribution list, visit circletail.org/sign-up or scan the QR code at right.





CIRCLE TAIL FACILITIES

Campus improvements continued after Landing Learning Center completion in 2020

In September of 2020, the construction of the long-awaited Landen Learning Center was complete, and Circle Tail spent the remainder of the year moving into and adjusting its routines due to this additional new building. Thankfully, due to a generous donor, improvements to the Circle Tail campus did not stop there.



During 2021, a myriad of improvements enhanced campus for volunteers, staff, and dogs alike, including:

- new buildings were erected-including a staff and volunteer check-in building, garage, storage building, and maintenance building-and signage was updated
- native trees and shrubs were planted in place of dead trees and invasive bushes
- the walking trail was groomed
- new fencing was installed
- outside play areas were revitalized
- a sidewalk now connects all areas of the campus
- parking areas and driveways were blacktopped

Visitors have enjoyed all the upgrades and the staff, volunteers and dogs couldn't be happier!





On-site surgical suite

Volunteer veterinarians continued to provide on-site spay/neuter surgeries for dogs in Circle Tail's fully equipped surgery suite, which is located in the Training & Education Center. All surgeries are performed on a volunteer basis by Janet Clem, DVM of Cincinnati Animal Medical Center. Dr. Clem is assisted by Circle Tail staff and volunteers.

- In 2021, 22 spays and 23 neuters were performed and no infections were noted while the dogs were onsite post-surgery.
- One eyelid surgery was performed to correct entropion in one of the pups

The on-site surgery suite continues to provide a low-stress surgical experience for our dogs. The dogs are walked 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, they walk back to the kennel for a drink, snack and bedtime.

SERVICE & HEARING DOG PROGRAM

A total of 18 working partnerships were formed in 2021. Of those partnerships, two Service Dogs and one Hearing Dog were partnered and two Assistance Dogs International Public Access Tests were completed by Circle Tail assistance dog teams. We were happy to also be able to conduct four American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen® Tests tests in which 28 people participated, including both service dog as well as pet dog teams.

Educational sessions for partners were held via Zoom and on-site for not only service and hearing dog teams, but also those working on their training hours before placement with a dog and our facility dog handlers. Training was offered weekly on-site with proper social distancing and masks.

Cirlce Tail thanks **MedVet**, which graciously provided 23 eye exams for dogs in training at no cost despite the cancelation of AVCO service dog eye exams due to COVID-19. All the dogs passed their testing.



18 working partnerships were formed in 2021



4







SERVICE DOGS

HEARING DOGS

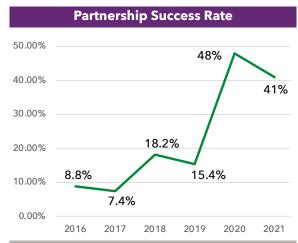
FACILITY DOGS

Assistance and Facility Dogs Working as of 12/31/2021

	Placed	Working
Public Access Dogs	102	24
Service	76	18
Hearing	102	24
In-Home Service and Hearing Dogs	77	12
Facility Dogs	73	28
Ambassador	3	3
Total	153	43

A total of 102 Public Access (Service and Hearing) Dog Teams, 66 In-Home Service and Hearing dogs, and 73 Facility Dogs have been partnered since Circle Tail's inception in 1997.

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



Circle Tail's partnership sucess rate has increased over time, largely due to ADI accredidation and breeding cooperative partnerships. These partnerships have increased intake of suitable service dog candidates

FACILITY DOG PROGRAM

Facility Dogs offer cognitive and emotional therapeutic support to the staff and children in the school environment. The dogs are highly trained by Circle Tail and their school handlers and host family receive training and support through the life of the partnership. In 2021, Circle Tail placed 11 school Facility Dogs. Since beginning the program in 2020, the organization has placed 18 dogs in local school districts. As of the end of 2021, school districts included:

- Goshen
- HCESC Pathways to Employment
 and Norwood Learning Center
- Lakota (six dogs placed)
- Lockland
- Mason (four dogs placed)
- Milford
- Northeastern Clermont
- Norwood
- St. Xavier High School
- Talawanda



Circle Tail's dogs are trained on Circle Tail's campus, at Ohio Correctional Partner Facilities, and placed with Foster Families.

INMATE-CANINE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT &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, Hearing, and Facility Dogs in training. The Inmate-Canine program continues to be comprised of two Ohio Correctional Institutions, including Dayton Correctional Institution (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. We were fortunate to resume in-person training during 2021 with masking and social distancing.



FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAM

Not all training happens on Circle Tail's campus—Circle Tail's Foster Family Program is essential to get dogs off campus and into new environments to deepen training. The Foster Family Program is designed to place a puppy or dog between the ages of 14 weeks and two years with various families or individuals in order for the dog to receive individual attention, love and care, socialization and obedience training. The families serves as "canine educators" and are a hugely impactful in a dog's training.

The joy of fostering a Service Dog in training comes with a lot of responsibility, especially knowing that the dog's job will be to assist an individual with a disability to live a more independent life. Dedication, responsiveness, and consistency are necessary to guide a happy-go-lucky puppy into an upstanding canine citizen and useful companion to a person in need.

In 2021, Circle Tail averaged over 36 Foster Families compared to 32 in 2020, with weekend fosters staying constistent at 10.

BREEDING PROGRAM

Circle Tail whelped five litters in 2021, with a resultant 35 births. 20 pups were retained by Circle Tail, 13 pups were transferred to other ADI programs, and two expired. Three whelps were CT breeders, one was part of the ADI Breeding Cooperative, and one was a CT/Ridgeview coowned breeder.

Circle Tail Breeding

Circle Tail had three litters from its own breeding program this year:

- CT Sprig, a yellow lab, was bred to SSD Chance, a yellow lab. Sprig had eight pups: one expired, and three pups were transferred to other ABC schools.
- CT Kula, a yellow lab/GR cross, was bred to SSD Chappy, a Golden Retriever. Kula had seven pups: three pups were transferred to other ABC schools.
- CT Britt, a yellow lab, was bred to PWP Walker, a Golden Retriever. Britt had four pups: one pup was transferred to another ABC school. Britt retired after this litter and was adopted by her host family.

One breeding female was co-owned with Ridgeview Labradors. Elka, a yellow lab, was bred to RV Zac. Elka had eight pups: four pups were transferred to Ridgeview Labradors. Elka retired after her last litter and was adopted by her host family.



2021 Breeding Program Summary	/
Circle Tail Breeders Whelp	3
CT/Ridgeview Co-own Breeders Whelp	1
ADI Breeding Co-Op Whelp Host	1
Breeder Whelp Host	0
Total Pups Born	35
Total Pups Kept for Circle Tail	20

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 Circle Tail received four additional pups through the cooperative.

Circle Tail whelped one litter for ABC:

CT Kaira, a black lab, was bred to SSD Chance, a yellow lab. Kaira had eight pups: one expired, and three pups were transferred to other ABC schools.

Regional Breeding Cooperative

Circle Tail has been pleased to work with three other ADI-accredited service dog organizations in relatively close proximity, to share best practices for the 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 semi-annual Zoom meetings and additional digital collaboration, members keep each other appraised of needs and available pups so that the organizations can help each other produce more quality working dogs.

CIRCLE TAIL DOGS BY THE NUMBERS

At the start of 2021, there were 87 dogs in the Circle Tail system. During 2021, 51 dogs were welcomed to Circle Tail, the majority of which were born on-site; others came from other sources including breeder coops or donations. With the 18 dogs that were partnered and others which were sent to differing Service Dog organizations, were career-changed, or otherwise, Circle Tail netted out the year with a total of 70 dogs in the system.

Dog Intake by Source	
Born at Circle Tail	35
ADI Breeder Cooperative	4
Other ADI School	1
Breeder Purchased	1
Breeder Donated	6
Shelter / Rescue Groups	1
Family Release	2
Returned Career-Changed Dog	1
Total	51

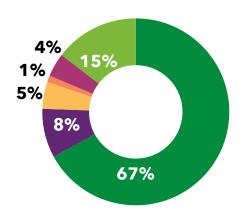
Dog Intake by Breed	
Purebred	
Poodle	3
Golden Retriever	4
Labrador Retriever	31
Total Purebred	36
Cross or Mix	
Golden Retriever / Poodle Cross	3
Golden Retriever / Labrador Retriever Cross	12
Total Cross	15

2021 FINANCIALS

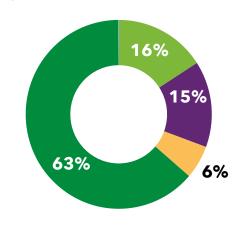
REVENUE	
Revenue Without Donor Restriction	\$504,691
Contributions & Grants	\$338,304
Fundraising	\$42,792
Investment Income	\$23,495
Merchandise Revenue	\$5,803
Program Revenue: Dog Training & First-Aid	\$20,622
Dog Adoption Fees	\$73,675
Donor Restricted Revenue	\$720,225
Restricted Contributions for Capital Projects	\$652,270
Restricted Contributions for Facility Dog Fund	\$67,986
Total Support & Revenue	\$1,224,947
FVDFNCFC	

Total Expenses	\$475,736
Other	\$486
Program	\$302,311
Fundraising	\$27,331
Facilities	\$70,197
Administration	\$75,410
EXPENSES	

Revenue without Donor Restriction



Expenses



CAREER-CHANGED DOGS

Circle Tail strives to find every dog a suitable job and all dogs begin at Circle Tail with the intention of training to be a Service or Facility dog. Circle Tail volunteers and employees work with each dog to ensure its new job is right for them and when a dog isn't suited for a job as a Service or Facility Dog, they are known as Career Changed Dogs, which Circle Tail places in homes seeking to adopt pet dogs. On occassion, Career Changed Dogs can also go through special adoptions to fulfill other jobs like becoming a USDA detection dogs.

Since 1999, Circle Tail has adopted over 3,800 dogs and puppies into new homes. In 2021, 26 dogs were career-changed and adopted into new homes. Two dogs were added to the Circle Tail website as a community service under "courtesy posting" to assist them in finding new homes.

26
ADOPTIONS in 2021

3,860

TOTAL ADOPTIONS since 1999

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

Circle Tail was priveleged to receive 20 grants in 2021

- The Charles H. Dater Foundation, Inc.
- Clever Crazes for Kids
- Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation
- Landen Family Foundation
- Love Like JJ
- Ohio Capital Impact Corporation
- Paycor Community Impact Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Rockwern Charitable Foundation
- Scaife Family Foundation



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

Fundraisting and awareness events

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to limit events in 2021 so the organization was unable to have its annual Dinner, Art & Wine for Canines event in March. Circle Tail held a golf outing with dinner at Ivy Hills Golf Club in August. Despite the rainy weather, the event was well attended and everyone enjoyed the time together. Some virtual fundraisers were held including a puppy naming raffle, Giving Tuesday fundraiser for the Facility Dog Fund, and a holiday raffle. The organization also produced and sold a 2022 Circle Tail calendar.







CIRCLE TAIL EVENTS & IN THE COMMUNITY

Local community events were again very limited this year and Circle Tail looks forward to hosting more events in the future.

Community Classes

Circle Tail continued to offer basic, intermediate, and remedial dog training classes as well as nosework classes to the community. Classes returned indoors, after COVID limitations in the prior year, with limited number of participants, social distancing and wearing of masks. Through virtual and in-person training we assisted over 625 people to have a better relationship with their pet dog.

ADI "Puppies in Flight" Program

Circle Tail was pleased to provide education and training to two American Airline flight attendants who are part of the ADI breeding Co-Op Puppies in Flight program. After a Zoom meeting with the breeding Co-Op officials, the flight attendants came to Circle Tail for additional hands-on training.



Circle Tail helped over

625 people
to have better relationships with their dogs.

CIRCLE TAIL IN THE NEWS

Circle Tail was featured in TV, print, and podcasts for the impact of its facility dogs on the lives of local students and first responders. **To read the full articles, visit www.circletail.org/news-and-events.**

- BBB Cincinnati Presents Podcast, "Dedicated dogs"
- City Lifestyle: Cincinnati, "Let the students lead: Mason City Schools' Hope Squad and Brave Ambassador Programs raise awareness for mental health and lift voices of student leadership"
- The Clermont Sun, "Therapy dog brings calming influence to CNE campuses"
- EMS World, "Sworn Therapy Dog supports Ohio responders"
- WCPO, "Lakota local schools' therapy dog program brings smiles to students and staffers"
- WLWT, "City of Franklin swears in therapy K9 to serve first responders"
- WLWT, "Therapy Dogs being brought into Greater Cincinnati schools to comfort stressed students"

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

On-site volunteering continued to be limited to two volunteers at any one time. Masking and social distancing continued, and volunteers exercised and played with most of the dogs outdoors. Circle Tail hosted three volunteer-led presentations in 2021, as speaking engagements continued to be limited.

Foster families were vital to getting the dogs off campus and socialized to a home and the sights and sounds of neighborhoods.

Most of the training conducted in 2021 was done virtually and one on one, outside, and socially distanced. Collectively, Circle Tail volunteers logged over 69,000 service hours.

While COVID continued to limit the number of volunteer work groups that could assist Circle Tail on-site, Circle Tail did have one group volunteer together to clean the training center.

Two Mt. Notre Dame students completed their Capstone project by making a dog training ramp and a training wall, which included a door and drawers that the dogs can use to practice opening and closing.

Information sessions for the community interested in learning more about or volunteering at Circle Tail were held via Zoom meetings January-May. In June, on-site information sessions and tours resumed with capped attendance due to COVID restrictions. If you are interested in attending a future information session or tour, please sign up for our email mailing list at circletail.org/sign-up

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

Dionna Benick

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