

Circle Tail Foster FAQ's

1. Do I need a fenced yard?

- a. We prefer fosters to have a fenced yard. However, fosters without a fenced yard are accepted as long as they can provide adequate exercise time.

2. I work outside the home; can I still be a foster?

- a. Yes. Some work places will allow service/hearing dogs in training. We recommend speaking with your employer prior to applying. Our older dogs are able to be left alone in a crate/kennel for up to 6-8 hours. Puppies will need a break at least every 3-4 hrs.

3. Who takes care of the dog if I am out of town?

- a. When fosters go out of town, if appropriate, they can take the dog with them. If the foster prefers, they can return the dog to Circle Tail for that time period. The Circle Tail staff appreciates a week or at least several days prior notice when a dog is being returned.

4. I have a pet and/or a child; can I still foster?

- a. Yes. Please inform Circle Tail staff/volunteer of your circumstances when applying to foster. All pets must be up to date on vaccines and able to interact appropriately with another dog/pup. Children must always be supervised around the foster pup/dog.

5. Where do fosters take their dog in public?

- a. In the state of Ohio, trainers of service/hearing dogs are granted the same access rights as people with disabilities with service/hearing dogs. Trainers can go wherever the general public is allowed entry. Fosters are to socialize the dogs, age appropriately, to activities of daily life such as department stores, grocery store, or the doctor's office. When in public the dogs wear a vest identifying them as a service/hearing dog from Circle Tail. Fosters receive an ID card identifying them as a Circle Tail Community Trainer.

6. Will I meet the individual who receives the dog I raised?

- a. Circle Tail is a small organization so it is possible you'll meet the dog's partner. Most teams routinely come to CT for training on the weekends. If you don't meet the team, you can always see information about them on our general FB page or the Foster FB page.

7. What if the dog is not placed as a service/hearing dog?

- a. Not all dogs are meant to be service/hearing dogs. Circle Tail believes in finding the right job for the dog and sometimes that is a pet. Some of our dogs will go on to be in home service/hearing dogs, therapy dogs or even detection dogs. Those dogs not suitable for a working dog role are placed for adoption. Adoptions are listed on our website and social media outlets.

8. What kind of financial commitment is required?

- a. Circle Tail is able to provide food, veterinary care and routine medications, as well as training supplies such as a crate, leash, and collar upon request from the foster. CT requests that toys kept at the foster's home and treats be provided by the foster. These contributions are tax-deductible.

9. How long will I have a dog?

- a. Time varies from a weekend to approximately 2 months at one time. Some of this is based on age and what experiences the dog/pups needs to have, as well as the number of dogs/pups needing to get into homes. However, no matter how long you have the dog, you will need to check in with CT at least monthly.

10. What breeds of dogs does Circle Tail use?

- a. CT mainly uses Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and Standard Poodles. Occasionally, we may use an appropriate German Shepherd. Smaller mixed breed dogs can be used for hearing dogs.

11. How much exercise does a dog require?

- a. The answer to this depends on the dog's age and breed. For adolescent and adult dogs minimum time may be 30-60 minutes twice daily.

12. How does Circle Tail prepare individuals to be fosters?

- a. Each foster is required to participate in a 7 week basic obedience class and several remedial classes at CT to start the preparation for fostering. Intermediate obedience class also provides a venue for further learning. In addition, they have access to our foster webpage that includes the foster family manual along with videos of training and other useful handouts regarding training and Service Dog law. We also encourage fosters to attend a Pet First Aid class.

13. What happens if the dog becomes sick or injured while in my care?

- a. All illnesses/injuries should be reported to Circle Tail. CT can take care of most things like an ear infection, hot spot, diarrhea, etc. If a life-threatening illness or injury occurs, after contacting CT, you may need to take the dog to your local, approved Vet, or one of Circle Tail's Veterinarians. Circle Tail may be able to reimburse emergency medical expenses.

14. I live in an apartment, condo, or student housing can I still be a foster?

- a. The short answer is: you'll need to contact your landlord to receive permission.

15. I don't drive, can I be a foster?

- a. Yes, but you'll need to be able to pick up and drop off the dog at Circle Tail as well as regularly attend training classes with the dog at CT.

16. I don't live in Cincinnati, can I still foster?

- a. Circle Tail encourages individuals and families outside of the city of Cincinnati to foster. There is no set radius for a person to foster, but the foster needs to be able to make routine trips with the dog to CT.

17. Where do Circle Tail dogs come from?

- a. Historically, Circle Tail has received a large portion of the dogs from shelters, rescues, family release, and some breeder donation. Recently, Circle Tail has joined the Assistance Dogs International breeding co-op and has started a small breeding program. We continue to take dogs from shelters and families when they are appropriate.

18. How old is the dog when fostered?

- a. Dogs can range from 10 weeks to 2 years old. New fosters tend to receive younger dogs to foster until they learn how to handle the dogs in public.

19. Can I share responsibilities of fostering with someone outside of my household?

- a. Yes if they complete the foster family application and attend all the training sessions.

20. Can I exercise the dog at a dog park?

- a. No. Circle Tail does not allow the dogs to play in dog parks.

21. Are dogs spayed or neutered before being placed with a foster?

- a. No. Most dogs are not spayed/neutered until they are about 1 year old. If the dog is being considered for breeding, they will be intact longer than that. Check with your dog's paperwork for further details.

22. I've never owned a dog before, can I still foster?

- a. Yes. Fostering is a fun way to experience dogs, and help you understand them better. We also provide a foster mentorship program.

23. I am allergic to dogs; can I foster?

- a. Depending on the severity of your allergies, we sometimes have Standard Poodles that need fostered.