

# Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to volunteer with us, here are some opportunities to help and how to become involved.

Please let us know if you have any special skills or experiences that you would like us to know. Any questions can be addressed to [volunteer@circletail.org](mailto:volunteer@circletail.org) and they will direct you to the most appropriate staff/ volunteer to help you.

Here is a description of our activities, the typical volunteer path and minimum time required.

## Dog Handling Opportunities

### **Dog Handler – Onsite and Offsite**

Opportunities	Volunteer Handlers are one of our most trained volunteer positions. They are able to take dogs through training classes and reinforce training of the dog onsite during walks and other interactions. Speakers who want to demo dogs during talks/ presentations may want to go through the volunteer handling program. Additionally, Foster families learn all volunteer handling skills in addition to appropriate training/ techniques for in home and out in public handling/ socializations.
Age Limit	Adults and teen drivers over 16 years old can become dog handlers. Parent/ Guardian adults can supervise children under 16 who want to become dog exercisers/ puppy socializers.
Minimum Time Commitment	Seven 45-minute basic obedience classes, any order As needed, any additional Saturdays in remedial class and with Volunteer Captain to navigate the kennel area (10-11 AM shift or 11 AM - Noon Shift, Remedial: 1 <sup>st</sup> 4 Saturdays 12:15 – 1:30pm) Once self-sufficient, can come 7 days a week during kennel hours (9 – 11am, 4 – 6pm) Minimum monthly commitment: 4 hours (more welcomed and encouraged!)

### **Dog Exerciser/ Puppy Socializer - Onsite and Offsite Events**

Opportunities	These volunteers can work with dogs or puppies at the kennel using appropriate puppy/ dog handling, loose leash walking, and suitable/ age appropriate play. Volunteers who want to attend offsite events need to attend this training program at a minimum but can get more experience/ training in the Dog Handler program.
Age Limit	Children can interact with puppies/ dogs with a trained supervising parent/ guardian but will have some handling limitations depending on age/ maturity level.
Minimum Time Commitment	<p><u>Onsite:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-5 additional Saturdays with a Volunteer Captain supervising (10-11 AM shift or 11 AM - Noon Shift)</li> <li>• Once self-sufficient, can come 7 days a week during kennel hours (9 – 11am, 4 – 6pm)</li> <li>• Minimum monthly commitment: 4 hours (more welcomed and encouraged!)</li> </ul> <p><u>Offsite:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 meeting a year to review appropriate handling at offsite events and Circle Tail Info review/ update</li> <li>• Initial events will be with experienced volunteer/ dog handler</li> <li>• Minimum yearly commitment: 2 – 3 events (more welcomed and encouraged!)</li> </ul>

## Foster Families

Opportunities	Foster Families house dogs over weekends or longer depending on the work/ home situation. They will learn all the skills of the dog handler position, as well as appropriate training/ techniques for in home and out in public handling/ socialization.
Age Limit	Minimum age: 18 years old. If children live in the home, parents will need to teach/ reinforce appropriate handling and play techniques. Depending on age, children will be able to reinforce commands but not teach obedience skills or handle the dogs in public. Teens, depending on age/ maturity level may have more handling opportunities.
Minimum Time Commitment	Attend basic obedience class #1 Attend 2 – 6 remedial classes supervised by volunteer captain <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review training on foster webpage</li><li>• New fosters are required to attend basic obedience classes #2 – 7 with the dog they are fostering.</li><li>• For first year, fosters are required to attend remedial classes once a month if not attending any other obedience class at Circle Tail so that we can see their handling and provide any needed instruction.</li><li>• Yearly Foster Family meetings/ outings: 8 minimum</li><li>• <u>Weekend foster</u>: minimum 1 weekend a month (more welcome and encouraged!)</li><li>• <u>Full Time Foster</u>: minimum 2 weeks a month (more welcome and encouraged!)</li></ul>

## Dress Code

Long pants and fully closed shoes are required. If not wearing Circle Tai logo shirts, only non-offensive and family friendly shirts should be worn. Do not wear any body piercing that may be a safety issue with the dogs.

For those attending offsite events, it is preferred that you wear Circle Tail logo top; however, if this is not feasible, please wear a plain colored shirt or blouse.

For speakers, a Circle Tail logo shirt is required.

## Non Dog Handling Opportunities

### Boy Scout Eagle/ Girl Scout Gold/ Silver/ Senior Capstone Projects, etc.

If you would like to volunteer to receive any type of service badge/ award/ project, please contact [volunteer@circletail.org](mailto:volunteer@circletail.org) to provide details of your interests/ requirements and one of our experienced staff/ volunteers can help you build a qualifying activity.

### Community Service Hours

Those adults/ teens over 16 years old who need community service hours as required by school or court may be able to receive them through Circle Tail. Please confirm at [volunteer@circletail.org](mailto:volunteer@circletail.org). Opportunities including cleaning, grounds maintenance, sorting papers, dishes, etc. as needed and directed by the kennel staff. School community service hours may be obtained through dog handling opportunities if the person previously completed the volunteer training program.

### Other

For the following activities, please email [volunteer@circletail.org](mailto:volunteer@circletail.org) and they will direct you to the most appropriate staff/ volunteer to help get you started.

- Grant Writing
- Fundraising/ Events Planning
- Marketing/ Public Relations
- Speakers Bureau/ Offsite Events (w/o dogs)
- Board Member (if opening exists)

Welcome Aboard!