

# DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER TRAINING INSTITUTE

58901 Overseas Highway  
Grassy Key, FL 33050  
305/289-1121 x215  
drcti@dolphins.org

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## *Professional Animal Trainer Program Application*

for the **DRCTI Welfare, Relationships, and Training Certificate**

*This is an application only and does not insure acceptance into the program.*

Students wishing to be considered for admission to the DRCTI hybrid **Professional Animal Trainer Program** must complete the following:

**Following are the prerequisites for entrance to the program.**

- Must be currently working in the animal field and/or have one year of animal handling experience within the last five years
- Must submit a current resume
- Must be 18 years of age or older at the time of application
- Must be fluent in English, however if necessary, students may utilize a translator at their own expense
- Must have access to the internet and Google Drive/Google Classroom Installed
- For the Lab portion of the course students must be able to video sessions with their animals (if currently working in the field), with written permission from facility if applicable, and have the ability to upload the video to instructor; or come to Dolphin Research Center onsite to complete hands-on portion of the program.

The following documents should be submitted **in one envelope** to the Dolphin Research Center Training Institute 58901 Overseas Highway Grassy Key, FL 33050. **All documents must be postmarked between November 8th and December 28th to be considered:**

- Complete DRCTI PAT program application and submit required application fee (you may download the application from our website)
- \$25.00 application Fee
- Submit two sealed and signed letters of recommendation from people who have worked in the animal training field with you
- High School Diploma/Transcripts (Only if you do not have college transcripts)
- College Transcripts

*Applications will not be considered complete until all required documents are received. Incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documentation have been received by DRCTI administration.*

***By submitting this application you are indicating that you are capable of fulfilling all program performance standards and performance requirements as listed below.***

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## Program Specific Requirements

Students will be required to purchase Touching Animal Souls by Gabrielle Harris for PD001 Building Relationships and Enrichment. All other required reading will be provided.

Students will be expected to have computer, laptop, and/or tablet on which they can access Google Drive with the ability to use Google Classroom, Google Sheets, and Google Docs. This can be done by creating a Gmail account or modifying a currently existing Gmail account.

Each course will have links to publications, YouTube videos, as well as document attachments for further course materials.

DRCTI has a collection of over 1000 .pdf journal articles that are available online via Google Drive. Active students will receive access to these journal articles.

The PAT program prepares students for employment in the field of marine mammal care and training. It is important to note that students will be working directly with marine mammals during the course of this program and that marine mammals are large animals that can be dangerous. Therefore, students enrolled in the PAT program are expected to rigorously adhere to the rules and regulations of the program in order to ensure the safety of the students, animals, staff, and general public at Dolphin Research Center. All students are expected to maintain the highest personal and ethical standards of conduct consistent with the professional effort expected by DRCTI faculty and all personnel at Dolphin Research Center. These standards are outlined below. Any information indicating that such standards are not being maintained will be reviewed by faculty and may result in student dismissal by the school administration.

## Program Specific Performance Standards

*In addition to DRCTI's 'General Student Performance Standards', the following program specific performance standards apply:*

**Mobility:** *Without assistance, sufficient to rapidly walk the span of Dolphin Research Center without interruption, run and swim distances of 50 yards, easily maneuver on and off floating/moving platforms without assistance, maneuver in tight spaces while manipulating overhead objects, work outdoors in both intense sun and heat as well as under rainy and cold conditions. Students are required to participate in facility cleaning and maintenance including the repair and maintenance of habitats, fences, equipment, and training props. Students will be required to prepare the diets of all animals in the facility under the supervision of DRCTI/DRC staff members and are also required to conduct extensive cleaning of husbandry area and materials daily.*

**Motor Skills:** *Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective animal care, including: without assistance, the ability to routinely lift 50 lb. boxes of frozen fish and maneuver non-motorized rolling carts carrying up to 60 lbs. over the entire span of the facility (approximately 230 yards) without interruption.*

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**Hearing:** Ability sufficient to monitor human communication, auditory training bridges and animal vocalizations and behavior across large distances (half the length of the facility animal habitats combined).

**Visual:** Ability sufficient for observation and visual assessment of animals, humans and habitats in extreme high light (intense sun) and low light situations, both indoors and outdoors. Students must see well at a distance of 90 feet or more. This is in accordance with human and animal safety issues and observational needs

All applicants who have met the above conditions will be considered for acceptance into the program. Applying is not a guarantee of acceptance. If more applicants apply than there are spaces available, the spots will be filled on a first come first served basis. If you apply, qualify, and there are no available spaces in the class, we will defer your acceptance for up to one year.

## DISCLAIMER

The DRCTI Professional Animal Trainer Program does not fall under the purview of the Florida Commission for Independent Education License #4766.

## Directions for completing application form:

- Read application thoroughly before answering questions.
- Legibly print or type all information requested. Attach additional pages if necessary.
- Sign and date form.

**Applications must be postmarked November 8th thru December 28th to be accepted**

## Student Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Current Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Business

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Supplemental Information** (*you may attach answers on an additional piece of paper if desired*):

- 1. What do you hope to achieve by attending this continuing education program? Please be specific.

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2. Describe a challenge you have faced in the field thus far and how you overcame it.

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3. What are your personal goals as you progress with your career in the field of animal care and training?

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## **Certification Statement**

***I certify that I have read and understood all material pertinent to the application both in this packet and on the DRCTI website. I further certify that I am able to satisfy the Program Specific Performance Standards and Performance Requirements as outlined above. I testify that all the information I have provided in this application is true and factual to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification or withholding any information requested above may result in dismissal of my application from consideration or termination from the program should I be accepted.***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Send the Following (in the same envelope) to:**

DRCTI,  
c/o Admissions  
58901 Overseas Highway  
Grassy Key, FL 33050

- Complete DRCTI PATC program application
- \$25.00 application Fee (check or money order; if you wish to pay by credit card email [drcti@dolphins.org](mailto:drcti@dolphins.org) for CC authorization form)
- Two sealed and signed letters of recommendation from people who have worked in the animal training field with you
- High School Diploma/Transcripts (only if you do not have college transcripts)
- College Transcripts