

Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers



Candidate Handbook 2025

Application Deadline*	Testing Window
March 12, 2025	April 12 – April 26, 2025
September 17, 2025	October 18 – November 1, 2025

***Applications will not be accepted after 11:59pm EST/EDT on this date**

Administered by:



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www.ptcny.com/contact

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This Handbook contains necessary information about the Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers, retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This Handbook is subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>Professional Testing Corporation (PTC)</p> <p>www.ptcny.com</p> <p>(212) 356-0660</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply for examination• Obtain general application policy and procedure information• Obtain information about testing policies and procedures• Transfer to a new testing period• Request Special Accommodations• Request Score Verification• Question about score reports• Miscellaneous inquiries
<p>Prometric</p> <p>www.prometric.com/IATCB</p> <p>(800) 741-0934</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule test appointment• Reschedule test appointment (within a testing period)• Cancel test appointment• Find directions to test site• Questions regarding testing sites and appointments
<p>International Animal Trainers Certification Board (IATCB)</p> <p>www.iatcb.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recertification Information

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This handbook contains necessary information about the IATCB Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers. It is required reading for those applying and taking the Examination. All individuals applying for the examination must comply with the policies, procedures, and deadlines in this Handbook and attest to this by signing the Candidate Attestation found on the application. Retain this handbook for future reference. This handbook is subject to change. See www.ptcny.com for handbook updates.

ACCESSING CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT ANY TIME WHILE YOU ARE TAKING THE EXAM IS PROHIBITED. YOU CAN ONLY REMOVE SNACKS, DRINKS, MEDICINE, OR PERSONAL HEALTHCARE ITEMS FROM YOUR LOCKER- NO BACKPACKS, BAGS, POCKETBOOKS OR CLOTHING CAN BE REMOVED WHILE YOUR EXAM IS IN SESSION.

CERTIFICATION

The Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers – Knowledge Assessed (CPAT-KA) is the result of many years of work by dedicated animal trainers who recognize the need to have proficiency certified in the field of animal training. In 2012, the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) formed an independent board responsible for the evaluation and certification of professional bird trainers. In 2014 the International Avian Trainers Certification Board (IATCB) was incorporated as an independent entity. In 2017, it expanded its scope to include animal trainers and so also does business as the International Animal Trainers Certification Board. IATCB endorses voluntary certification by examination for all professionals involved with animals, including trainers, educators, handlers, veterinarians, and all others involved in the care and handling of animals. Those who meet IATCB requirements are eligible to take this examination. Certification as a professional animal trainer recognizes trainers, educators, and others who demonstrate a competent level of professional practice and conduct. Certification is an indication of current knowledge in a specialized area of practice.

PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION

Certification as a professional animal trainer provides formal recognition of knowledge and practice in the field by:

1. Formally recognizing those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the IATCB and pass the Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers-Knowledge Assessed (CPAT-KA).
2. Advancing the most effective humane care and handling of animals in all habitats.
3. Encouraging continued personal and professional growth as a professional animal trainer.
4. Providing a standard of knowledge requisite for certification, thereby assisting in the assessment of professional animal trainers.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria as of the Application deadline indicated on the cover of the Handbook:

A. Applicants

shall be persons with experience in the field of animal training, husbandry, and/or management for a total of at least three (3) years accumulated over a period of no more than five (5) years preceding the date of the application.

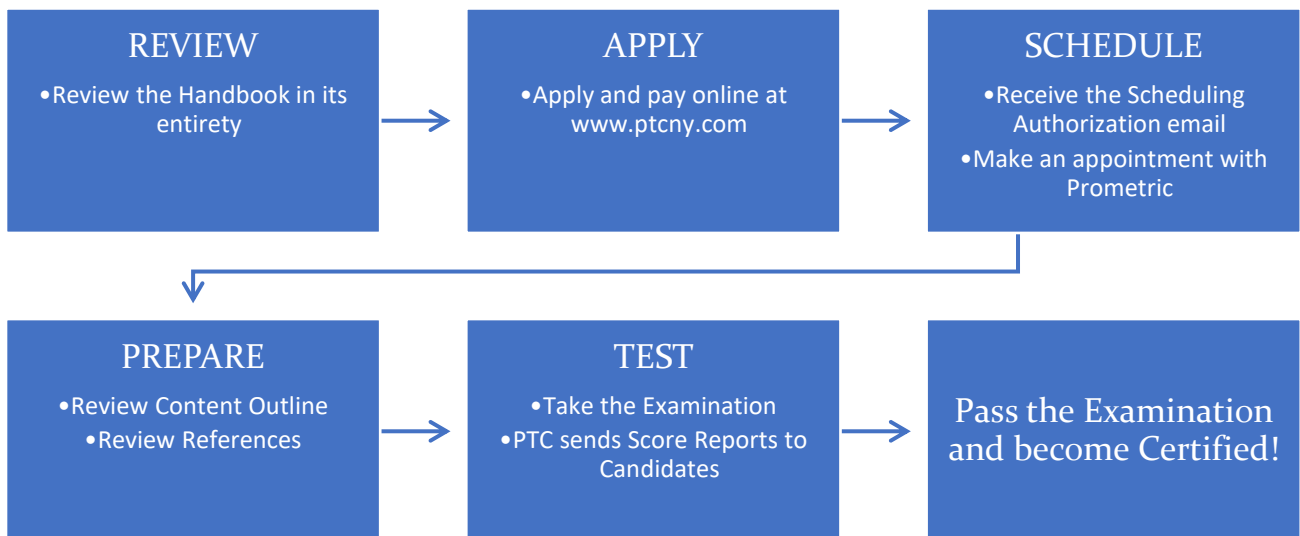
OR

hold membership at the professional level in the Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA), the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK), the International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA), or the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE).

B. Completion and filing of an Application for the Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers.

C. Payment of required fees.

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

Step 1 – Fill Out the Application

- Go to <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/IATCB>
 - View testing periods and application deadlines
 - Fill out the online application completely and upload supporting documentation (if required).
 - Use your first and last name exactly as it appears on your current driver's license, passport, state issued non-driver ID or military ID.
 - Applications are not complete until all information, documentation, and payment has been provided.
 - When you start a new application, you will be asked to create a user account and password. This information will be used to access your score report. Keep the link to the application and your user account information for later use.

Step 2 – Submit Exam Fee and Application for Review

PTC will send you an email that says that your payment and application have been received and are being reviewed. Allow up to 10 business days for review.

Step 3 – Receive Application Status Update

- After your application is reviewed PTC will update you with another email.
 - **REOPENED FOR MORE DOCUMENTS**
 - This means we are missing the required documentation. Follow the directions in the email.
 - Applications that are incomplete as of 21 days before the start of the testing window will be refunded minus the administration fee (see fees page 6).
 - **REJECTED**
 - This means you are not eligible to take the exam. The reason will be explained in the email.
 - Rejected applications will be refunded minus the administration fee (see fees page 6).
 - **APPROVED**
 - This means your application is approved. You will move on to Step 4.

Step 4 – Receive Scheduling Authorization and Schedule Testing Appointment

- Approved candidates will receive an email with their Scheduling Authorization, within 11 weeks before the start of the testing window. Scheduling Authorization emails come from notices@ptcny.com. Do not lose this email.
- If you don't receive your Scheduling Authorization email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window, contact PTC.

The Scheduling Authorization includes important information including:

- Your PTC Candidate ID number
- Instructions on how to make your Exam appointment with Prometric.

Applicants who are not approved to sit for the examination or whose applications are incomplete 21 days prior to the first day of the testing window will receive a refund of their application fee minus the \$75 administrative fee. Refunds will be processed approximately 30 days after the end of the testing period.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

The IATCB Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers is administered during an established two-week testing window daily, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by Prometric.

Scheduling Examination Appointments

Follow the steps on your Scheduling Authorization to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric.



- Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization.
- **Candidates who wait until the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and/or testing center. Candidates unable to schedule an appointment will forfeit their fees.**

After you make your test appointment, Prometric will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your exam. Check this confirmation carefully and contact Prometric at (800) 741-0934 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with your appointment.

Note: International candidates may also schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment online at www.prometric.com/IATCB.

IMPORTANT!

You **MUST** present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. military ID at the test center. Expired, temporary, or paper driver's licenses will **NOT** be accepted.

The first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization **MUST** exactly match the first and last name on your photo ID. **Fees will not be refunded for exams missed because of invalid ID.**

Rescheduling Examination Appointments within a Testing Period

Candidates are able to reschedule their examination appointments within the same testing period as long as the request is submitted within the timeframe described below. Reschedule within the permitted time frame by calling or going to the Prometric website: www.prometric.com/IATCB.

Time Frame	Reschedule Permitted?	Stipulations
Requests submitted 30 days or more before the original appointment	Yes	None
Requests submitted 29 to 5 days before the original appointment	Yes	Candidate must pay Prometric a rescheduling fee of \$50.

Time Frame	Reschedule Permitted?	Stipulations
Requests submitted less than 5 days before the original appointment	No	Candidates who do not arrive to test for their appointment will be considered a no-show and all their examinations fees will be forfeited. Candidates will need to reapply and pay full examination fees for a future testing period.

Transferring to a New Testing Period

Candidates unable to take the examination during their scheduled testing period may request a **ONE-TIME** transfer to a future testing period. **There is a transfer fee of \$220.00.** After you have transferred once by paying the \$220.00 fee, you will need to pay the full examination fee in order to transfer a second time; so, *plan carefully*.

Note: requests to transfer to a new testing period must be received within 30 days of your originally scheduled testing period.

Candidates wishing to transfer to a new testing period need to follow the steps below.

1. Go to apply.ptcny.com.
2. Click "Transfer Existing Application."
3. PTC Support will send you an email letting you know your transfer application was approved and that you can log back into your application and pay the one-time \$220.00 transfer fee.

Call 212-356-0660 if you have any questions regarding the transfer process.

If candidates are unable to attend the examination on the date for which they registered and elect not to transfer to another testing period, the application will be closed and all fees will be forfeited. There will be no refund of fees.

The transfer fee is based on costs and is not punitive in nature. The transfer fee must be paid at the time the request is approved.

Note: Transferring your Examination only refers to instances when a candidate is unable to take their exam during a testing period for which they have already applied. Candidates who did not pass their examination and are retaking the examination need to pay the full Examination Fee.

Failing to Report for an Examination



If you fail to report for an examination, you will forfeit all fees paid to take the examination. A completed application form and examination fee are required to reapply for the examination.

EXAMINATION FEES

Fee Type	Amount	Details
Application Fee	US \$350.00 Members* US \$410.00 Non-Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-refundable¹ • Non-transferable • Includes testing center fees • Includes non-refundable \$75 administrative fee
Transfer Fee (Moving to a new testing window; see page 7)	US \$220.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to candidates who need to move to a new testing period • Must submit new application & fee to PTC
Rescheduling Fee (5-29 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 6)	US \$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period • Payable directly to Prometric • Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone

* As an IATCB partner, professional members of ABMA, AAZK, IMATA, and IAATE qualify for the discounted fee (detailed above). Members of ABMA, AAZK, IMATA and IAATE must contact their organization to obtain a coupon code that will be entered on the online Application. By entering the correct code, an applicant will qualify for the discounted fee. These coupon codes are only available to **professional level members** and cannot be shared with other applicants.



- **There will be no refund of fees unless applicants are ineligible for the examination.**
- **Ineligible candidates will be refunded their fees minus an administrative fee.**
- **No refunds will be issued for applying for the incorrect examination or testing period, for failing to make an examination appointment, or for failing to appear at your scheduled appointment.**

Be advised: Prometric does not have the authority to grant transfers to another testing period or refunds.

¹ Applicants who are ineligible to take the examination or whose applications are incomplete by the application deadline will have their examination fees returned minus an administrative fee.

TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

IATCB and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will take steps reasonably necessary to make testing accessible to persons with disabilities covered under the ADA. According to the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, or walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system).

The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and test accommodations is confidential and is not included in scoring or reporting.

All approved testing accommodations must maintain the psychometric nature and security of the examination. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature or security of the exam will not be granted. Note that accommodations for an examination (test accommodations) may not be the same as accommodations provided by your employer for your job. You can find more information about testing accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (www.ada.gov).

Requests for Test Accommodations must be uploaded with the candidate's application and fees at least 8 weeks before the start of your testing period. You must complete and upload both Part 1 and Part 2 of this Form at the same time. Missing information or incomplete Forms will result in a delay in processing. **If your Form is incomplete and/or not received at least 8 weeks before the start of the testing period, we cannot guarantee that we can make these test accommodations in time for you to test and you may need to transfer to another testing period and pay the transfer fee.**

To request test accommodations, follow these 3 steps:

1. Download the Request for Test Accommodations Form, available from www.ptcny.com or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660.
2. Complete Test Accommodations Form with your doctor/healthcare professional.
3. Upload the completed and signed Request for Test Accommodations Form with the online exam application. Submit your application at least 8 weeks prior to the start of your chosen testing period.

NOTES:

- Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Accommodations Form will be reviewed.
- All requests must be made at the time of application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.
- Do not go to www.prometric.com or contact Prometric to request test accommodations as they are not authorized to approve accommodations. All requests for test accommodations must be submitted on the PTC Request Form.

- If you need to use your cell phone or another electronic device to monitor a medical condition, such as diabetes, be sure to include this on Part 1 of the Request for Test Accommodations Form so that we can notify Prometric in advance.
- If you are a nursing parent and will need to use a breast pump during your exam, complete Part 1 of the Request for Test Accommodations Form and submit it at least 8 weeks before your testing period to allow time to make suitable arrangements at the test center.
- Only pre-approved test accommodations will be permitted on the day of the examination. Test center personnel are not authorized to make any changes to the test accommodations on the day of the testing session and any such change may result in your examination score being canceled.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your driver's license, passport, non-driver state issued ID or U.S. Military ID.
 - Is it expired?
 - Does the first and last name on your ID match the first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization email?
 - Proctors at the Prometric testing center will refuse admission to candidates with expired ID, IDs with names that do not match their records, and temporary paper IDs. Candidates will be marked as no-shows and will forfeit their exam fees.
- Check your PTC Scheduling Authorization email and Prometric Appointment Confirmation email to make sure everything is accurate (i.e., your first and last name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your test center and parking options and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the test center. Allow plenty of time as late arrival may prevent you from testing.
- In the event of inclement weather, check the Prometric website for site closures: <https://www.prometric.com/closures>
- Prometric's website provides information on what you can expect on your test day, including a walkthrough of check in and security procedures: <https://www.prometric.com/test-center-security>.
- This Handbook provides the Content Outline for the Examination (see appendix). Use this to help you start studying for the examination.
- Review Prometric's exam software tutorial: <https://ptcny.com/pdf/prometricsoftwaretutorial.pdf>
- Review What to Expect at the Test Center and Rules for the Examination on the next pages before your appointment.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

- Candidate Check-In
 - Candidates will be asked to:
 - present their IDs.
 - empty and turn out their pockets.
 - walk through a metal detector or get “wanded”.
 - Eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be inspected.
 - Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
 - Leave these at home or place them in your locker.
 - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it is subject to inspection by test center staff.
 - Prometric provides lockers to store purses, backpacks, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.
 - Water in a clear plastic containers (no labels) may be brought into the testing room.
- During the Exam
 - No breaks are scheduled during the exam.
 - Candidates are only permitted to leave the testing room to use the restroom or access food, drink, or medicine from their assigned locker. The exam timer will NOT be paused.
 - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center.
 - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format.
- Keep in mind:
 - Other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination.
 - You may hear ambient noises such as typing, coughing, or people entering and exiting the testing room that cannot be avoided.
 - Prometric is unable to provide a completely noise-free environment.
 - Headphones may be requested to minimize the impact of ambient noise.
 - Proctors will periodically walk through the testing room as part of their monitoring process.
 - See [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

Read the information below carefully. You are responsible for adhering to the examination rules while at the testing center.

⇒ DO NOT BRING

These items are strictly prohibited at the testing center. Leave these items in your car or your assigned locker.

- Cell phones and all other electronic devices
- Watches
- Jackets/coats/bulky clothing such as sweatshirts
- Hats (except hats worn for religious reasons)
- Jewelry, including watches and wearable technology.



⇒ You may NOT access the following at any time during your exam or breaks: papers, books, any reference materials; electronic devices including your cell phone. Candidates may access the following items from their locker: snacks, drinks, medicine, or other personal healthcare items.

⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. Read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.

⇒ You are prohibited from leaving the testing room while your examination is in session, except for going to the restroom. Candidates who do go to their lockers or the restroom will need to repeat the security screening before being permitted to reenter the testing room. **Candidates who leave the center will have their examinations terminated.**

⇒ See [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.

Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or www.ptcny.com/contact with any questions about the Examination Rules.

Irregular or improper behavior that is observed, made apparent by statistical analysis, or uncovered by other means before, during or after the examination will be considered a violation of these rules and may constitute grounds for invalidation of a candidate's examination. IATCB will initiate an investigation and request suitable analyses and appropriate documentation.

REPORT OF RESULTS

Candidates will be notified via email within four (4) weeks of the end of the testing period whether or not they have passed the examination. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will be reported to the candidate and to IATCB. Successful candidates will also receive certificates from IATCB.

Scoring Process

To ensure that pass/fail decisions are based on sound testing practices, IATCB uses a criterion referenced standard setting methodology.

The passing score for the CPBT Examination represents an absolute standard and is determined using the modified Angoff technique, a well-established, and widely adopted, consistent approach in the testing industry. A panel of subject matter experts carefully evaluate each item on the examination and estimate the probability that each individual question will be answered correctly by a minimally competent/just qualified candidate. The recommended passing score is then reviewed and approved by IATCB.

Examination Comments

Any candidate who feels that the examination effort was negatively impacted by the test center conditions should notify the proctor immediately. The situation should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 15 days of the test appointment. Any comments about the test itself should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 15 days of the test appointment.

Requesting an Examination Score Verification

Candidates who fail the examination may request a score verification of their data file. Score verification is a manual check of the data file by the testing service to determine if there have been any errors in scoring. Although the probability of such an error is extremely remote, this service is available. Requests for score verification must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Score Verification Request form on www.ptcny.com with payment of \$35. Candidates who fail the examination will not be permitted to see the examination questions. For reasons of test security, no candidate is allowed to review the examination or any of its items.

To ensure correct reporting of results, PTC automatically performs score verification of examinations of candidates who score within 3 points of passing as a quality control measure. Thus, it is extremely doubtful that any examination results will change from “fail” to “pass” through score verification.

Confidentiality of Examination Scores

IATCB will release the individual test scores ONLY to the individual candidate. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to IATCB or to PTC. Upon request from individuals and/or the public, the IATCB will verify the certification of a candidate.

Reexamination

The Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers can be repeated an unlimited number of times. The candidate must file a new Application and submit the full Application fee each time.

EXAMINATION SECURITY

Candidates seeking admission to take the examination do so for the purpose of pursuing registration, and for no other purpose. Because of the confidential nature of the examination, candidates may not make or keep copies, excerpts, or notes of examination materials, and to not use or divulge information learned from the examination. The examination is the exclusive property of IATCB and candidates may not use examination information in any way without the express prior written consent of IATCB.

The Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers is confidential. Candidates are required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to the start of the examination.

Candidates agree to abide by the testing rules in effect at the time of their test appointment. IATCB, PTC, and/or Prometric staff may refuse a candidate admission to the examination if they do not have the proper identification as detailed in the Candidate Handbook. Candidates who do not abide by the testing rules may have their exam terminated during the exam administration in order to maintain a secure and proper exam administration and/or exam scores invalidated.

ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION

Candidates who pass the Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers will receive certificates indicating their certification status as a Certified Professional Animal Trainer – Knowledge Assessed (CPAT-KA) and will be entitled to use the trademarked designation CPAT-KA™ after their names. A registry of Certified Professional Animal Trainers will be maintained by IATCB and may be reported in its publications.

Certification for Professional Animal Trainers is recognized for a period of five (5) years at which time the candidate must retake and pass the current Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers or meet such requirements in effect at that time in order to retain certification.

REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION

Certification will be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of any part of an Application.
2. Misrepresentation of certification status.
3. Violation of the IATCB Code of Ethics.

The Appeals Committee of IATCB provides the appeal mechanism for challenging revocation of Certification. It is the responsibility of the individual to initiate this process.

CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The IATCB Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers is a computer-based examination composed of a maximum of 200 objective, multiple-choice, questions with a total testing time of three (3) hours. The content of the examination is described in the Content Outline starting on the next page.

The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in animal training and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by IATCB.

IATCB, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination.

The IATCB Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

I.	Learning Principles	30%
II.	Applied Training	30%
III.	Husbandry and Enrichment	20%
IV.	Public Education	10%
V.	Professional Ethics	10%

CONTENT OUTLINE

I. LEARNING PRINCIPLES

A. The Significance of Science to Behavior

1. Obstacles to the Scientific Analysis of Behavior
2. Working Definitions
 - a) Behavior Operationally Defined
 - b) Stimulus
 - c) Learning
 - d) Hypothesis vs. Theory
 - e) Behavior Analysis

B. Learning Paradigms

1. Respondent Learning: S-S-R
2. Operant Learning: S-R-S

C. Understanding and Predicting Behavior

1. ABC
2. Functional Assessment

D. Empowerment

1. Key Questions for Solving Behavior Problems
2. Science of Empowerment
 - a) Control as a Primary Reinforcer
 - b) Contra-free-loading
 - c) Learned Helplessness vs. Resilience

E. Changing Behavior: Respondent Strategies

1. Exposure Therapies
2. Systematic Desensitization
3. Counter-conditioning
4. Flooding

F. Changing Behavior: Operant Strategies

1. Antecedents
 - a) Setting Events
 - b) Establishing/Motivating Operations
 - c) Discriminative Stimuli
 - (1) S-D
 - (2) S-Delta
 - (3) Adding or Changing Cue
2. Consequences
 - a) Function and Operations
 - b) Four Quadrants

G. Increasing Behavior

1. Positive and Negative Reinforcement
2. Considerations for Effective Reinforcement

a) Three Cs

b) Schedule Effects

- (1) Continuous
- (2) Intermittent
- (3) Extinction
- (4) Matching Law

c) Individual Difference

d) Establishing New Reinforcers

3. Shaping

4. Targeting

5. Prompting and Fading Prompts

6. Chaining

7. Discrimination

8. Generalization

H. Decreasing Behavior

1. Punishment Defined

2. Negative Punishment

3. Positive Punishment vs. Negative Reinforcement

4. Factors Affecting Punishment

5. Problems with Punishment

6. Alternatives to Positive Punishment

a) Differential Reinforcement of Alternative/Incompatible Behavior

b) Extinction

c) Time Out from Positive Reinforcement

II. APPLIED TRAINING

A. Body Language

1. Distance Increasing Behaviors

2. Distance Decreasing Behaviors

3. Stress Indicators

B. Training Challenges

1. Motivation

a) Relationships

b) Ability to Perform Behavior

c) Past Experience

d) Environmental Distraction

(1) Social

(2) Breeding

(3) Comfort

(4) Distractions

- (5) Degree of Hunger
 - 2. Latency
 - 3. Aggressive Behavior
 - 4. Superstitious Behavior
- C. Food and Weight Management
 - 1. Determining Ad Lib Weight for Baseline
 - 2. Indicators of Too Low Weight
 - 3. Food vs. Weight Management
- D. Imprinting
 - 1. Choice of Species
 - 2. Possible Detrimental Consequences
- E. Equipment Use
- F. Training Procedures
- G. Recordkeeping

III. HUSBANDRY AND ENRICHMENT

- A. Husbandry
 - 1. Medical/Health Care
 - a) Diseases
 - (1) Zoonotic
 - (2) Parasites
 - b) Symptoms requiring veterinary referral
 - (1) Physical
 - (2) Behavioral
 - c) Emergency Medical Care/First Aid
 - 2. Nutrition
 - 3. Housing
 - 4. Grooming
 - 5. Restraint
 - 6. Collection Planning/Breeding
 - 7. Natural History
 - 8. Anatomy and Physiology
 - 9. Equipment Use
- B. Enrichment
 - 1. Food/Feeding

- 2. Sensory
- 3. Novel Objects
- 4. Structural
- 5. Training/Social/Behavioral
- 6. Safety

IV. PUBLIC EDUCATION

- A. Presentation Skills
 - 1. Audience Engagement
 - 2. Audience Appropriate Content
- B. Messaging
 - 1. Natural History
 - 2. Conservation
 - 3. Graphics and Signage
 - 4. Learning Modalities
 - 5. Multicultural Sensitivity
 - 6. Promotion of Behavior Change
- C. Evaluation
- D. Program Design
 - 1. Theater and Stage Design
 - 2. Production Quality

V. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- A. Position Statements
 - 1. Food and Weight Management
 - 2. Veterinary Care
 - 3. Educational Messaging
 - 4. Enrichment
 - 5. Collection Planning
 - 6. Housing
 - 7. Training
- B. IATCB Code of Professional Ethics
- C. Prohibited Practices
- D. Hierarchy of Procedural Choice
- E. Situations that Limit Training

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the one best answer.

Q1: Which of the following decreases behavior?

1. Extinction
2. Stimulation
3. Punishment
4. Reinforcement

Q2: Which of the following is characteristic of training?

1. Extinction is the preferred way to eliminate a behavior
2. Positive punishment should never be used with animals
3. Negative reinforcement is less intrusive than negative punishment
4. Positive reinforcement helps build relationships between animal and trainer

Q3: Program content should be

1. opinion-based.
2. age appropriate.
3. teacher-focused.
4. at a low level as to not challenge the audience.

Q4: Which of the following is NOT included in the IATCB Code of Professional Ethics?

1. Encourage community support and involvement through public education
2. Create and maintain a facility and its programming to attain the highest level of recognition
3. Work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics and an attitude of stewardship
4. Follow a hierarchy of behavioral procedures in training with a goal of using the least intrusive, most positive methods to influence behavior before considering the use of aversives

CORRECT ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS
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1. 3; 2. 4; 3. 2; 4. 2

REFERENCES

The IATCB has prepared a suggested reference list to assist in preparing for the Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers. These references contain journals and textbooks which include information of significance to professional animal trainers. This list does not attempt to include all acceptable references nor is it suggested that the Certification Examination for Professional Animal Trainers is necessarily based on these references.

ABMA Position Statements

AZA Position Statements

IAATE Position Statements

IAATE Selection Criteria for Non-Releasable Birds Position Statement

IAATE Welfare of Human-Reared VS Parent Reared Owls in Ambassador Animal Programs Position Statement

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