

# Certification Examination for Professional Bird Trainers



## Candidate Handbook

2023

Application Deadline*	Testing Window
March 15, 2023	April 15 – April 29, 2023
September 13, 2023	October 21 – November 4, 2023

**\*Applications will not be accepted after 11:59pm Eastern on this date**

Administered by:



1350 Broadway, Suite 800 | New York, NY 10018

[www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	i
CONTACT INFORMATION .....	ii
ATTENTION CANDIDATES .....	ii
CERTIFICATION .....	1
PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION .....	1
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS .....	2
THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS.....	2
COMPLETION OF APPLICATION .....	3
EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING .....	4
EXAMINATION FEES.....	7
TEST ACCOMMODATIONS .....	8
PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION.....	9
WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER.....	10
RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION.....	11
REPORT OF RESULTS.....	12
REQUESTING A HANDSCORE .....	12
CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION SCORES.....	12
REEXAMINATION .....	12
ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION .....	13
REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION .....	13
CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION .....	13
CONTENT OUTLINE .....	14
SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS .....	16
REFERENCES.....	17

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

## ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This handbook contains necessary information about the IATCB Certification Examination for Professional Bird 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. Please retain this handbook for future reference. This handbook is subject to change. See [www.ptcny.com](http://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.**

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## **CERTIFICATION**

The Certification Examination for Professional Bird Trainers – Knowledge Assessed (CPBT-KA) is the result of many years of work by dedicated Bird Trainers who recognize the need to have proficiency certified in the field of bird 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 birds, including trainers, educators, handlers, veterinarians, and all others involved in the care and handling of birds. Those who meet IATCB requirements are eligible to take this examination. Certification as a professional bird 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.

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## **PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION**

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

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

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## 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 avian 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

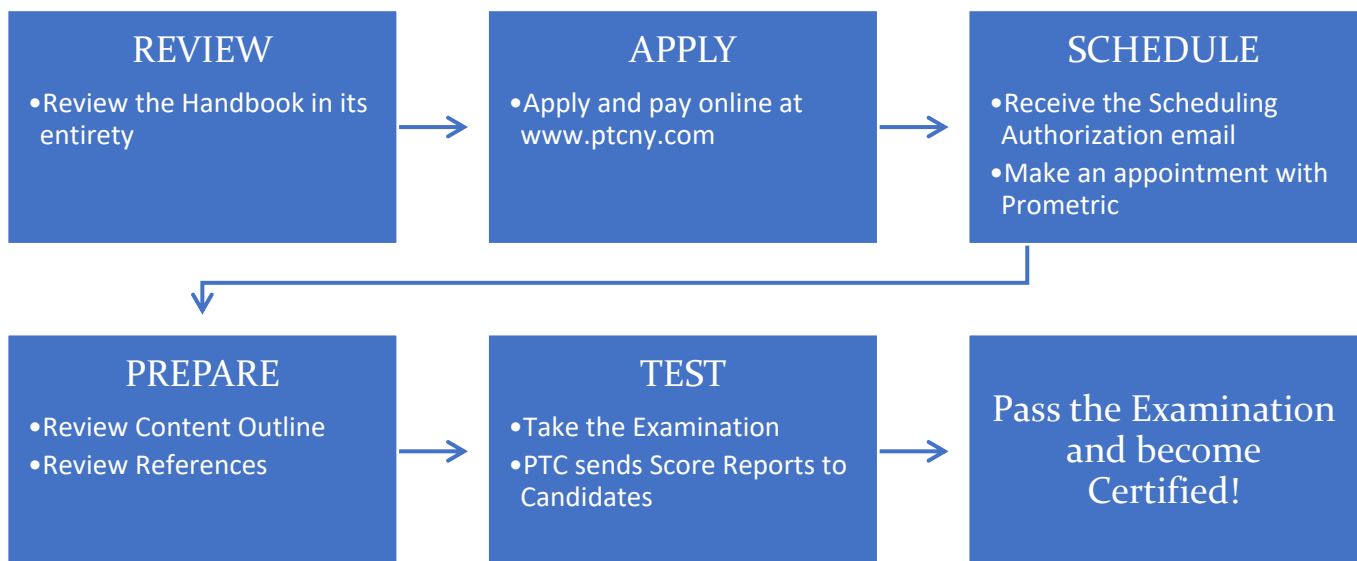
hold membership at the professional level in the Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA), the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK), the International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA), or the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE).

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

C. Payment of required fees.

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## THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



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## COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

### ***Step 1 – Complete Application***

Go to <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/IATCB> to view examination testing periods, application deadlines, and link to the online application. You must complete the examination application in full, using your first and last name exactly as it appears on your current government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or a passport. Applications are not considered complete until all information and payment has been provided. The completed application can be submitted and paid for online. Retain the link to the application and your login information.

**Please note**, for new applications you will be asked to create a PIN number. This PIN will be used when going into your existing application.

### ***Step 2 – Submit Examination Fee and Application for Review***

Receive email from PTC stating that your payment and application has been received and under review.

### ***Step 3 – Receive Approval of Application***

Receive email from PTC stating that your application has been approved.

### ***Step 4 – Receive Scheduling Authorization and Schedule Testing Appointment***

Within eleven (11) weeks prior to the start of the testing period, candidates will receive a Scheduling Authorization from PTC via email from [notices@ptcny.com](mailto:notices@ptcny.com). The Scheduling Authorization includes a PTC Candidate ID number and information on how to set up your examination location, date, and time through Prometric. Retain this document.

You must present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. Military ID at the testing center at the time of your examination appointment or you will be refused admission. The name on the ID must exactly match the name on the Scheduling Authorization.

**Payment is due at the time of application. All applications will be reviewed for eligibility once payment is received. Candidates found to be ineligible or applications incomplete as of 14 days before the start of the chosen testing period will be refunded their examination fee minus a \$75.00 processing fee.**

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## EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

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

### Scheduling Authorization

PTC will send approved candidates an email called the Scheduling Authorization. These emails are sent out about 11 weeks before the first day of the testing window. The emails come from [notices@ptcny.com](mailto:notices@ptcny.com). Candidates cannot make an appointment until they receive a scheduling authorization. If you don't receive your email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window contact PTC.

### Scheduling Examination Appointments

The Scheduling Authorization will indicate how to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization in order to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date. **Candidates who wait until the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and 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. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. 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](http://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](http://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.
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 \$210.00.** After you have transferred once by paying the \$210.00 fee, you will need to pay the full examination fee in order to transfer a second time; so, ***please plan carefully.***

**Please 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 <http://secure.ptcny.com/apply>.
2. Click "Start New Application."
3. Choose IATCB-CPBT-KA in the first drop-down menu; then choose the new examination period in the second drop down menu and fill out the rest of the information on the page.
4. Fill out the application making sure you answer yes to the question asking if you are transferring.
5. When you have finished the application, click "Submit Transfer Request."



6. 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 \$210.00 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. The candidate is responsible for contacting Prometric and canceling the original examination appointment, if one was made.

**Exams may only be transferred to a new testing period once; please plan carefully.**

Please 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"> <li>• Non-refundable<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Non-transferable</li> <li>• Includes testing center fees</li> <li>• Includes non-refundable \$75 administrative fee</li> </ul>
Transfer Fee (Moving to a new testing window; see page 7)	US \$210.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applies to candidates who need to move to a new testing period</b></li> <li>• Must submit new application &amp; fee to PTC</li> </ul>
Rescheduling Fee (5-29 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 6)	US \$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period</b></li> <li>• Payable directly to Prometric</li> <li>• Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone</li> </ul>

\* As an IATCB partner, professional members of ABMA, AAZK, and IAATE qualify for the discounted fee (detailed above). Members of ABMA, AAZK, 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.**

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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## TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

IATCB and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). PTC will take steps reasonably necessary to make certification 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, walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system). The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and special test accommodations will be held in strict confidence.

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.

Testing arrangements may be made upon receipt of the application, examination fee, and a completed and signed Request for Test Accommodations Form, available from [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660.

This form must be uploaded with the online application. Candidates who do not submit their Test Accommodations Form with their application may not be able to test during their chosen testing period and therefore be subject to rescheduling or transfer fees.

**Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Needs Accommodations Form will be reviewed.** Letters from doctors and other healthcare professionals must be accompanied by the official Form and will not be accepted without the Form. All requests must be made at the time of application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.

**Please note: do not go to [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) or contact Prometric to request test accommodations as Prometric is not authorized to approve accommodations. All requests for test accommodations must be submitted on the PTC Request Form.**

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## PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport or U.S. Military ID) when you make your examination appointment. Is it expired? Does the name on your ID match the name on your Scheduling Authorization email? Proctors at the Prometric testing center will refuse admission to candidates with expired IDs, 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 Appointment Confirmation email from Prometric to make sure everything is accurate (i.e. your name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your chosen testing site and any requirements they may have for parking and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the testing center. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to arrive 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 these to help you start studying for the examination.
- Review the Rules for the Examination on the next page before your appointment.

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## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

PTC has partnered with Prometric Testing Centers to deliver examinations to candidates. Here is what you can expect when you arrive at your Prometric Testing Center.

- Candidate Check-In
  - Candidates will be asked to present their IDs.
  - Candidates will be asked to empty and turn out their pockets.
  - Candidates will be “wanded” or asked to walk through a metal detector.
  - Inspection of eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be conducted. Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
  - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it may be subject to inspection by a testing center administrator before entry into the testing room is permitted.
  - Prometric provides lockers for candidates to store their purses, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.
  
- During the Exam
  - No breaks are scheduled during the exam. Candidates who must leave the testing room to take a break will not be given extra time on 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.
  - Candidates who take an unscheduled break are subject to additional security screenings before being permitted to reenter the testing room
  - Accessing mobile phones or study materials during the examination is prohibited.
  - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center.
  - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format.

Please keep in mind: other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination. Therefore, examinees 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. However, headphones may be requested to minimize impact.

Please see [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

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## RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

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

- ⇒ You must present your current driver's license, passport, or US Military ID at the testing center. Candidates without valid ID will NOT be permitted to test. Temporary or paper copies of your ID will not be accepted.
- ⇒ Cell phones, watches, and all other electronic devices are strictly prohibited at the testing center. Please leave these items in your car or in your assigned locker at the testing center. You may NOT access your cell phone, electronic devices, or study materials from your locker at any time.
- ⇒ No papers, books, or reference materials may be accessed during a break at a locker, taken into or removed from the testing room.
- ⇒ You may ONLY access snacks, drinks, medicines, or personal healthcare items from your locker.
- ⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
- ⇒ Candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, except for going to the restroom, or accessing their locker for food, drink, or medicine only.
- ⇒ Bulky clothing, such as sweatshirts (hoodies), jackets, coats, and hats (except hats worn for religious reasons), and most types of jewelry may not be worn while taking the examination. Proctors will ask you to remove such items and place them in your locker. Please see [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.
- ⇒ All watches, including fitness/smart watches and similar devices, cannot be worn during the examination.
- ⇒ No food/beverages are permitted inside the testing room. Leave these items in your assigned locker.



Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://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.**

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## 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](http://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](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) within 15 days of the test appointment.

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## REQUESTING A HANDSCORE

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand scoring of their data file. Hand scoring 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 hand scoring must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Request of Handscore form on [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) with payment of \$25. 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 handscores 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 handscoring.

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## 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, IATCB will verify the certification of a candidate.

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## REEXAMINATION

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

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## ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION

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

Certification for Professional Bird 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 Bird Trainers or meet such requirements in effect at that time in order to retain certification.

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## REVOCAION 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.

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## CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The IATCB Certification Examination for Professional Bird 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 Bird 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%



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## 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. Redirecting
  - 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. Free Flight Training
  - 1. Send and Recall Cues
  - 2. Repetition
  - 3. Generalization
    - a) Trainers
    - b) Conditions
  - 4. Wind
  - 5. Strength and Conditioning
  - 6. Potential Dangers
  - 7. Choice of Free Flight Candidates
- D. Food and Weight Management
  - 1. Determining Ad Lib Weight for Baseline
  - 2. Indicators of Too Low Weight
  - 3. Food vs. Weight Management
- E. Imprinting
  - 1. Choice of Species
  - 2. Possible Detrimental Consequences
- F. Equipment Use
  - 1. Jesses and anklets
  - 2. Hoods
  - 3. Gloves
  - 4. Creance
  - 5. Telemetry
  - 6. Capture/Release/Transport
  - 7. Training Tools
  - 8. Scales
- G. Tethering
  - 1. Species Appropriate
  - 2. Tethering vs. Freelothing
  - 3. Potential Problems
- H. Training Procedures
- I. Recordkeeping

### III. HUSBANDRY AND ENRICHMENT

- A. Husbandry
  - 1. Medical/Health Care
    - a) Avian 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

### 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. Tethering and Use of Jesses
  - 2. Food and Weight Management
  - 3. Veterinary Care
  - 4. Educational Messaging
  - 5. Enrichment
  - 6. Free Flight Programs
  - 7. Collection Planning
  - 8. Housing
  - 9. Program Owl Welfare
- B. IATCB Code of Professional Ethics
- C. Prohibited Practices
- D. Hierarchy of Procedural Choice
- E. Situations that Limit Training

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## 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: Which of the following feathers has a primary function of providing insulation?

1. Filoplume
2. Crine feather
3. Down feather
4. Contour feather

Q4: Program content should be

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

Q5: 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

<p>CORRECT ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS</p>
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<p>1. 3; 2. 4; 3. 3; 4, 2; 5, 2</p>
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## REFERENCES

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

IAATE Position Statements on:

Veterinary Care

Collection Planning

Food Management and Weight Management

Tethering

Enrichment

Educational Messaging

Housing

Free Flight for Programs

Welfare of Human-Reared vs Parent-Reared Owls in Ambassador Animal Programs

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