2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION:
The primary reason for relinquishment of dogs to shelters and rescues is their behavior. Each year the Academy for Dog Trainers offers a limited number of partial scholarships to aspiring trainers who are actively working in animal shelters and rescues.

The Academy looks for Applicants who will use their education to keep shelter/rescue dogs in adoptive homes, to help these dogs become better integrated with new families, and to help owners train, manage, and modify behavior using non-aversive, science-based practices.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:
The Academy's scholarship award is for 50% of the current tuition fee. The remaining 50% of the fee is paid by the Recipient after acceptance of the scholarship award and enrollment in the Academy. As of January 2015, full tuition is $5620 with 50% tuition totaling $2810.

SCHOLARHIP REQUIREMENTS:
To be considered for an Academy scholarship, Applicants must meet these seven criteria:

1. Be currently active in a shelter or rescue with a history of at least 2 years of service in a staff or volunteer position.

2. Possess 2 years of experience or more in any field that demonstrates skills in teaching, coaching, educating, counseling, or interacting with human populations in a customer/client/patient relationship capacity; OR have 2 years or more of consistent client service experience in a pet-related field such as dog walking, pet sitting, grooming, day care, or veterinary care. These experiences may precede or be concurrent with the applicant's shelter/rescue work.

3. Be prepared to complete the Academy's program according to its published course details and timeframe (http://academyfordogtrainers.com/course/course_details.html). Applicants should have sufficient time each week in addition to their regular work schedules to study program materials, attend webinars, participate in online discussions, and practice mechanical training skills.

4. Have access to untrained dogs and to basic video capabilities for the purpose of filming practice sessions to submit for coaching feedback and to achieve exam readiness.

5. Provide written support from the animal shelter or pet rescue organization where the Applicant works or volunteers. The organization must have a verifiable non-profit status as well as a mandatory spay/neuter policy.

6. Create a Pay-It-Forward Proposal that describes a project or program that the Applicant will implement for the shelter or rescue within a year of graduating from the Academy.

7. Submit a fully completed Scholarship Application Form according to the details outlined in the section below and by the dates specified on page 4 of this document under "Application Timeline, Conditions, and Acceptance Policies."

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & DETAILS:
Submit your scholarship application and related attachments using the electronic Scholarship Application Form. We do not accept applications via any other means. All attachments should be in Adobe PDF format.

The form is accessible via the link on the Academy's website Scholarship Page (http://academyfordogtrainers.com/academy/scholarships.html).

The information below describes all the elements that must be included with your electronic application form in order for it to be considered complete.

1. Scholarship Application Form: Complete this electronic document, which contains several questions about your dog-related education and your general work experience, plus your goals and outlook. You will also submit details about your volunteer history, the organizations where you have worked or volunteered, as well as your focus and objectives for using your Academy education. You will upload 4 PDF attachments to this form as described below.

2. Shelter/Rescue Letter of Support (Attachment #1): This letter should come from a manager, supervisor, or director at the shelter/rescue organization where you work or volunteer. It must address the following points:

   i. Describe the organization's history, mission, the area(s) it serves, and its current capacity.

   ii. Provide a brief overview of the organization's programs and accomplishments including number of rescues/adoptions/placements, or other relevant metrics.

     iii.   List the organization's non-profit or tax-exempt status identification number.

     iv.   Confirm that the organization has a spay/neuter policy.

     v.   Discuss the most critical issues facing the organization, particularly with regards to dog training and behavior.

     vi.   Briefly describe the organization's structure and the Applicant's current role, as well as the Applicant's contributions to date.

     vii.   Provide any feedback on the Pay-It-Forward Proposal that the Applicant has created to implement for the shelter/rescue within a year of graduating from the Academy.

3. <u>Two Letters of Reference (Attachments #2 & #3):</u> Provide two separate reference letters from qualified individuals who understand your role in the shelter or rescue where you serve, as well as the type of science-based education you are seeking. Your reference providers should also be able to comment on your academic potential, your skills with people, and your potential for becoming a professional trainer and behavior counselor.

4. <u>Pay-It-Forward Proposal (Attachment #4):</u> Describe a project or program that you would like to implement for your shelter/rescue within a year of graduating from the Academy. This is a chance for you to imagine how to apply your Academy education in a practical and meaningful way. Your proposal must be at least three full pages and address these four areas:

     i.   The objective of your project or program as well as the specific need(s) it would address in the organization you serve.

     ii.   The specifics of how you envision the project or program would be implemented based on your current understanding of your organization's operational structure, capacity, and personnel.

     iii.   The estimated resources needed to enact the project or program and see it through to completion.

     iv.   The means by which you would gather feedback on the effectiveness of your project or program and measure its results.

    <u>NOTE:</u> *The Academy recognizes that circumstances and elements of your Pay-It-Forward Proposal may evolve during your course of study and be influenced by the Academy's idea-sharing atmosphere. You are welcome to allow for this factor in your proposal.*

5. <u>Video Clip Submission:</u> Provide a link to a short video clip (60+ seconds) as described below. Shooting video clips is a routine part of how students are coached in the Academy in order to learn solid training mechanics. Your video clip does not need to be fancy or edited. It may run slightly over 1 minute long. Your clip will not be used to evaluate your handling skills, or your training technique, or your dog's behavior.

Your video clip submission must demonstrate these four things:

    i.   You can film a simple one minute interaction between yourself and a familiar dog.

    ii.   You can keep your body and the dog's body in frame during filming.

    iii.   You can speak comfortably and audibly to the camera; or alternatively, provide clear narration.

    iv.   You can upload your video file to DropBox, Vimeo, or YouTube, and provide a useable link to it on your Scholarship Application Form (Note: remember to test your link before submitting it).

After you submit your electronic application, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Survey Gizmo, the system that collects your application responses. This usually occurs within a few minutes. It will include electronic links to your completed form and to all of your PDF attachments.

You will need to test these links to confirm that all elements of your application are complete and that the PDF files you submitted are opening correctly.

If you encounter difficulties with your form submission or attachments, please contact stacey@academyfordogtrainers.com.

APPLICATION TIMELINE and POLICIES:

- Completed Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for a two week period from **June 1, 2015 through June 15, 2015** at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Any submissions received after that time will not be considered for a scholarship.

- Scholarship Recipients will be notified of their awards via email by **July 15, 2015.**

- Scholarship Recipients will have until **July 31, 2015** to accept their awards and must be prepared to enroll and pay their 50% tuition at that time; otherwise, the scholarship award will be given to the next approved Applicant.

- Scholarship Recipients will receive an acceptance email that explains tuition payment terms, including a payment plan option. The payment plan requires an initial credit card payment of $1000 followed by payments of $500 per month for 4 months for a payment plan total of $3000. Once enrollment is complete and course materials have been mailed, the Academy does not offer tuition refunds of any kind.

- All Applicants will be informed whether they have or have not been awarded a scholarship by **July 31, 2015**.

- Applicants who are not awarded a scholarship, but who meet the Academy's admission criteria, will have the opportunity to enroll in the Academy at normal tuition rates depending on enrollment levels at that time. If enrollment space is limited, these Applicants will be accepted in the order of receipt of their completed scholarship applications.

- Applicants who are not granted a scholarship, and/or who do not meet admission criteria, are welcome to re-apply in subsequent years.

SCHOLARSHIP CONTACT INFO:
If you have any questions, or if you encounter issues while submitting your application, please contact stacey@academyfordogtrainers.com.

Thank you for your interest in the Academy for Dog Trainer's Scholarship Program.