

## **Dolphins Plus Research Contract**

Dolphins Plus is a research and education, managed care facility for marine mammals. The safety and well being of our animals is an absolute and non-negotiable priority. Dolphins Plus will not agree to, or participate in, any activity or research project that violates or interferes with the health and safety of our animals and staff members. Therefore, each visiting researcher must agree to all of the terms outlined herein and sign the “Dolphins Plus Research Contract” prior to arriving at our facility.

1. All research must be conducted in accordance with the Dolphins Plus animal safety and health guidelines and all relevant federal, state, and local laws, including (but not limited to), the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C., 2131-2159; Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C., 1361, et. seq.). These restrictions include, but are not limited to, the inability to physically harm or distress the animals, the inability to deprive the animals of food or water, or the unnecessary duplication of a specific experiment using regulated animals.
2. All research proposals must be submitted in a professionally acceptable format and reviewed by the Dolphins Plus Scientific Committee (SC). Once accepted, any deviations from the proposed research must be made in writing and submitted to the SC prior to implementation. If deviations are made without prior approval, the project will be terminated.
3. If the proposal is denied, Dolphins Plus may suggest modifications for future research. The principle investigator may implement the modifications and submit another research application for review.
4. Dolphins Plus reserves the right to suspend, modify, or terminate a research project at any point in time. These decisions will be made on the basis of strict adherence to Dolphins Plus’ commitment to animal care and safety and all relevant federal, state, and local laws. Even if all proposed guidelines are met, the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC), as well as any Dolphins Plus animal care technician, reserves the right to terminate or suspend any project for health (physical, behavioral, mental) and/or safety reasons.
5. All research will be monitored and reviewed by the ACUC and the animal care staff technicians to ensure strict adherence to the rules and regulations outlined above.
6. Dolphins Plus is a public facility, located in a residential neighborhood. Therefore, all research will be conducted in a public forum.
7. Research efforts may be postponed or canceled without prior notice due to impending dangerous weather, a conflict with animal safety and/or health (determined by the ACUC and animal care technicians), or interference with public programs.
8. Any principle investigator proposing to use human subjects in a dolphin-human interaction/therapy study must be a, or working with a, licensed, State of Florida, therapist. All licenses must be provided prior to proposal acceptance, and each individual must provide proof of professional liability and insurance.
9. The principle investigator agrees to sign all waivers and/or releases associated with standard business procedures related to on-site activities, including but not limited to, swim releases and photography/videography releases.
10. Dolphins Plus records are public and will be provided to principle investigators upon request.

11. The status of all research must be outlined and submitted to Dolphins Plus once a year until the project has been completed and/or published.
12. A copy of the final manuscript must be submitted to the Dolphins Plus SC PRIOR to presentation in any forum and/or submission to a journal. The SC must approve the final submission of all data, names, and records.
13. Once the final document is published, Dolphins Plus must be notified and supplied with a reprint or PDF file.
14. All corporate-sponsored principle investigators must follow an independent review process with the Dolphins Plus Board of Directors. Alternate fees may be applied.
15. Research proposal review will require 4-6 weeks to complete, so please submit your requests accordingly.