

Requirements to Become a “READ” Team

Be a Delta Partner and adhere to all Delta Society Policies and Procedures.

Pass the ComForT Evaluation and be an active member of ComForT.

Attend the READ training Course.

- The course is 4 hours and is completed in a group setting, without an animal.
- The course is usually held on a weeknight or a Saturday, using a manual, an instructor, and a video.
- The cost of the manual is \$40.00* and must be paid by the date of the course so that manuals can be ordered from ITA (Home Office for READ).
- After the class the paperwork must be completed to be mailed to ITA along with a \$40.00** registration fee which includes a lifetime membership for the team. Any additional animal is \$5.00.
- ComForT will mail your completed packet to ITA.
- You must bring a copy of your Delta badge to class so it can be mailed with paperwork to ITA. If you have not received your badge, a copy of your temporary letter from the Delta Society will suffice.
- Because the READ program is an affiliate of ComForT, there is a cost savings of \$44.00-\$79.00 for the registration and manual fees.

New READ handlers are first required to make two -to- three shadow visits (without your dog). We will assist you in coordinating these visits, as special permission is generally required. It is advisable that you attend a variety of shadow visits with different teams as they are very helpful and informative. You can learn much by observing!

You and your dog will then be mentored, or accompanied by an experienced READ handler on your first visit. Mentoring is required for new READ volunteers and must be arranged before a team is allowed to visit on their own.

ALL facilities require background checks.

*check made out to Area Agency on Aging of North Florida; in memo, please put ComForT/READ

**check made out to ITA; instructor will collect after class and mail for you

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