

The Gazette

ABTC

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR & TRAINING COUNCIL

The twice yearly round up of news and developments in the Animal Behaviour and Training sector

Welcome to the ninth edition of the ABTC Gazette. This issue sees further expansion of membership of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council development of projects and awards for people in organisations associated with ABTC. There is a continuing theme of items that have nearly come to fruition that we cannot yet report but keep an eye on social media and there will hopefully be significant announcements made soon.

GDPR preparations complete



Ahead of the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in May this year, ABTC has voluntarily registered with the ICO and officers responsible for processing personal data have undergone preparatory training. The same training has been provided for all Practitioner Member Organisations to ensure compliance with the new Regulation. The GDPR replaces the Data Protection Act 1998 and while many of the principles are similar, legal responsibilities have shifted significantly towards those who collect, store and process personal information.

Welfare Fund Pilot concludes.



The Welfare Fund pilot concluded at the end of last year and was deemed to be very successful. Cases were seen around Manchester and Southampton, referred by PDSA hospital staff.

Plans are now being discussed to develop the project into a countrywide service, providing quality advice to those who are least able to afford it.

*'Promoting excellence
in Animal Behaviour'*



Another busy year on the ABTC stand at the BSAVA Congress in Birmingham. The stand was located in a prime position and constantly attended. The most gratifying element of which was that people were actively seeking out ABTC, knowing who we are.

Over the last three years the questions asked have moved from 'Who are you?' and 'What do you do?' to 'How do I go about getting qualified?' and 'Where do we find the most appropriate people to refer behaviour cases to?'

As always there were also a lot of positive networking opportunities and much business was done.

Blue Cross

Blue Cross are conducting a pilot of findabehaviourist.co.uk which is a place where pet owners of dogs, cats and small pets are put in touch with an ABTC registered animal behaviourist in their area. The pilot sees 5 pioneering behaviourists in the south east of England trial the platform with real customers who are experiencing behavioural problems with their dogs only at this stage. This pilot will help Blue Cross develop the service further ready for scaling up later in the year – with the aim being to make it easier for customers, behaviourists as well as referring vets. To register your interest in taking part as a behaviourist, please get in touch via email to: steve@findabehaviourist.co.uk.



Special points of interest:

- > Animal Welfare Awards
- > Welfare Fund and Blue Cross project
- > New Members
- > BSAVA Congress 2018

New Member Organisations



A significant addition to the ABTC membership ranks is the addition of The Horse Trust.

ABTC has always aimed to encompass all animals that are subject to training and behaviour therapy and while dogs and cats are well represented this marks a very welcome first step into the equine world.

There are a few behaviourists that are primarily involved with horses amongst our ranks already but The Horse Trust is the first organisation dedicated to equines.

Hopefully they will be the first of several more.

Given the spread of interest in ABTC from those with a specific interest and connection with equines there is to be a special meeting in the Summer.

Membership Categories

There are a number of different categories of membership of the ABTC.

Practitioner Organisation

Practitioner organisations are those that directly represent practitioners of animal training and behaviour therapy. Membership fee £220 annually.

Advisory Organisation

Advisory organisations are those that are animal welfare related stakeholders but do not directly represent practitioners. Membership fee £220 annually.

Individual

Individuals can only be members by invitation of the ABTC and they must have a particular skill or specialist knowledge that will benefit the work of the Council.

Supporting Organisation

Supporting organisations are similar to Advisory organisations although they have a much reduced membership fee and although they may take part in discussions and consultations they do not have any voting rights. Membership fee £50 annually.



Journal Paper most downloaded.

Regular readers will know that People and Animals: The International Journal of Research and Practice (PAJI) published a paper in December last year detailing the need for regulation of animal behaviour and training.

The paper, authored by Dr Anne McBride and David Montgomery, titled Animal Welfare: A Contemporary Understanding Demands a Contemporary Approach to Behaviour and Training, has proven to be the most often downloaded from all those published in that edition.

In the first two months it was downloaded 268 times with a little over half being to international readers from 32 countries. Perhaps predictably, the USA, Canada, Australia and many European countries appeared on the download statistics but interestingly less obvious countries such as Russia, Argentina, Brazil, Japan and India also appeared.

Shock Collars banned in Scotland

Following a lengthy consultation by the Scottish Government the situation was far from clear regarding the future of shock-collars and electronic training devices.

Initially it was proposed that a vocational qualification be developed that would qualify people to use these devices but a rare show of unity from the behaviour and training sector saw a petition to ban them gather nearly 20,000 signatures.

A similar consultation is now under way by Defra to consider a similar ban in England. If this goes the same way as Scotland it will mean that electronic training devices will be banned across GB.

Annual Audit of Registers

The 2017/2018 annual audit of registers was completed in February and a report compiled for the 2018 AGM.

All entries checked were found to be in order and represented a high level of compliance with ABTC requirements.

This year's audit included individual qualifications and CPD but was extended to also include Practitioner Organisations' verification of compliance with ISO17024.

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CEVA Animal Welfare Awards

The 2018 CEVA Animal Welfare Awards were announced at the BSAVA Congress on 4th April. Making the awards were Chris Laurence MBE



(retired vet and ABTC trustee) and TV presenter Matt Baker.

Richard Saunders was awarded the CEVA Vet of the Year award.

Richard is the RWF (Rabbit Welfare Association and Fund) sponsored vet and does a huge amount of work both at clinical level, helping vets all over the UK with rabbit issues and at political level for rabbit welfare. RWF is represented within ABTC

It is also good to see that Claire Besant was given a lifetime achievement award for all her work for cats, first with the Feline Advisory Bureau and then the International Cat Care. International Cat Care is also represented within ABTC.

BSAVA awards



A further award of note was made on 8th April at the BSAVA Congress AGM. Dr Anne McBride (ABTC Trustee) was awarded Honorary Associate Membership of the BSAVA in recognition of outstanding services to the veterinary profession.

This award is richly deserved and congratulations are sent from ABTC.

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<http://www.abtcouncil.org.uk/>

BSI Membership

Because we're committed
to the highest standards

The Equality Register

Member 2018

Forthcoming events

A system of advertising quality events of an educational nature that support the aims of the ABTC is available.

Such events will be publicised on the ABTC website and Facebook page for free. Applications to the Secretary in the first instance. The right to withhold publication is reserved.

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