

The Gazette



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

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the ABTC Gazette. This issue sees further expansion of membership of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council, development of ongoing projects and the higher profile the Council is enjoying at veterinary conferences.

We are now in our 10th year since the first meeting held at the Royal Veterinary College in London in December 2009 where it was decided to create a regulatory body for Animal Training and Behaviour.



Accreditation of Paraprofessionals

In January The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Council approved a pathway for veterinary and animal health paraprofessionals to become associates of or accredited by the College and therefore fall within the RCVS regulatory remit.

Eleanor Ferguson, RCVS Registrar, said: "This is a very significant decision by Council to open up a pathway to related paraprofessionals to apply to become regulated by the College".

We reported on the prospect of this in the last edition of the Gazette and now the process has been given formal approval to proceed.

Shortly after this announcement was made ABTC met with RCVS to confirm our eligibility to apply, this was established and the principles of what accreditation would entail were discussed.

Preparations are now under way at RCVS for the process to start later in the year and ABTC is further developing its policies and procedures to accommodate likely additional requirements.



Another busy year on the ABTC stand at the BSAVA Congress in Birmingham. This year the charity stands were moved from the Conference Centre into the Arena, and the ABTC secured a prime position close to the catering and seating areas. This meant the stand was constantly attended.

The footfall was about double last year's figure with the vast majority being vets but also a number of veterinary nurses.



Special points of interest:

- > RCVS accreditation
- > Insurance approval
- > BVA policy
- > BSAVA Congress 2019



Welfare Fund

The Welfare Fund project is still moving forward thanks to the backing of PDSA.

Funding is now being sought to progress onto the next phase that will see the start of a network of PDSA veterinary nurses training to Animal Behaviour Technician standard with access to a network of Clinical Animal Behaviourists to oversee the more involved cases.

When the application cycles of suitable funding sources come around it is hoped that we will be able to start putting plans into action.

'Promoting excellence in Animal Behaviour' and Training'

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.

Applications are always welcome and the necessary forms can be found on the website .



BVA position on the 'Vet-led team'

In 2018 ABTC was invited to contribute to the BVA working group for the Vet-led team.

This working group was tasked with developing BVA policy on vets working with allied professions, as well as informing their stances on issues of regulation in the light of the recent work of the RCVS towards incorporating para-professionals under the regulatory umbrella of the Royal College.

The working group has now concluded and their position statement is planned to be published at the end of May 2019.

To coincide with the publishing, ABTC has been asked to contribute to the BVA blog giving examples of the best practice and explain why we have engaged with the process of RCVS regulation.

Latest ABTC meeting

The 26th scheduled meeting and AGM took place at Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park on the 23rd May 2018., marking nine years since our inaugural gathering.

As ever the agenda was comprehensive, covering a wide range of topics related to the continued development of ABTC.

This turned out to be the largest meeting to date which should not have been a surprise given the ever expanding membership. There are now a total of 30 organisations representing the broadest possible profile of the animal welfare sector.

New Membership

Applications and enquiries for membership in all categories are still being received on a regular basis. Currently we are assessing one more organisation for Practitioner membership and discussing Advisory/Supporting membership with another major organisation.

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Behaviour consultations approved for cover by Allianz.

Allianz is one of the largest general insurers in the UK, providing insurance for a wide spectrum of business and personal needs including the pet industry.

Allianz underwrites PetPlan, the largest pet insurance provider in the UK. They also underwrite the Co-operative, Sainsburys Bank, Pet-ID Micro-chips and Animal Care Options Insurance.

Following lengthy discussions it was agreed that from 1st January 2019 policyholders can claim for behavioural treatments when they are carried out by a Veterinary Behaviourist or a Clinical Animal Behaviourist when they are one of the ABTC Practitioner Organisation members (subject of course to the other Terms and Conditions and monetary limits on the policy).

All claims must be started with a veterinary referral.

This agreement marks another step forward for ABTC development and influence in the sector. Allianz is believed to be the biggest underwriter of pet insurance and others are planned to be approached in the future.

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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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