

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 twelfth edition of the ABTC Gazette. This issue reflects the now familiar theme of the Council's continued development, growth in support and influence in the animal training and behaviour sector.

We are now celebrating ten years 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 ABTC

The process of RCVS accreditation is progressing well.

ABTC were given draft outline of requirements for accreditation and we have been working to ensure that our policies and procedures meet those specifications over recent months. In many cases it was found that we had already put into place much of what will be required of us and it is hoped that it will stand up to impending close examination.

There is a little more work to do then we will await the finalised documentation from RCVS and a timetable for the formal assessment process to begin. Latest indications are that this will start early in 2020.



ABTC at the BVNA Congress

Another busy time on the ABTC stand at the BVNA Congress in Telford in October. It has become quite noticeable how well informed delegates to the congress are regarding ABTC activities with many visitors to the stand asking questions about regulation and how they should go about becoming qualified.



BVA position on the 'Vet-led team'

BVA's concept of the vet-led team calls on vets and appropriately trained and regulated allied professionals to use a 'hub and spoke' model that has the vet at its heart to coordinate services

for clients and patients.

Working towards this concept BVA is promoting the regulation of allied professions to engage with so that Vets can have confidence in referring cases on. ABTC is working towards satisfying those requirements. On Oct 28th BVA published a blog titled 'Integrating qualified trainers and behaviourists into the vet-led team' at www.bva.co.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/bva-community/bva-blog

'Promoting excellence in Animal Behaviour' and Training'

Special points of interest:

- > RCVS accreditation
- > 10 year anniversary
- > BVA policy
- > BVNA Congress 2019



In December 2009 the VetNetLLN working group that was examining the viability of regulating training and behaviour services met at the Royal Veterinary College London.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish whether a regulatory body should be formed, which organisations would take this forward and what the body should be called.

The proposal was enthusiastically supported and the Animal Behaviour and Training Council was created. The next few months were spent drafting an initial constitution and framework for its management in preparation for the inaugural AGM in the Spring of 2010.

Since then ABTC has established itself firmly on the Animal Welfare landscape in the UK.

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 .

All-party Parliamentary Dog Advisory Welfare Group



UK Parliament

On 29th October an open meeting was chaired by APDAWG at the Palace of Westminster to discuss matters surrounding regulation of dog

training and behaviour services. Predictably this was very well attended, so much so that the initial venue of Portcullis House had to be changed in order to accommodate the 175 attendees.

There were five speakers including our President, David Montgomery answered the questions posed from an ABTC perspective and updated the audience on our progress towards achieving formal approval as the regulatory body for the training and behaviour sector.

The mood of the audience was very positive and there was general agreement with the concept of regulation as the only way of stamping out bad practice. It has to be said however, that some were still proposing different ways of achieving regulation including self declaration of expertise which has been ruled out by ABTC.

It was heartening to hear the ADAWG Chairperson, Dr Lisa Cameron MP opening the meeting by questioning the Government's position of future regulation being approved by UKAS.

Next ABTC meeting

The 28th scheduled meeting will take place in Westminster at Nobel House, Defra on 8th January 2010 with a trustees meeting on the day before.

The agenda and details will be made available to member organisations in due course.

This promises to be a full agenda given all the activity since the earlier meeting in May 2019 and plans for the forthcoming RCVS accreditation.

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

BSI Membership

Because we're committed to the highest standards

The Equality Register

Member 2019



New Membership

A further three new organisations have become members of ABTC since the last edition of the Messenger



Over the past thirty years SCAS has established itself as the leading human-companion animal bond organisation in the UK through providing education, raising awareness, encouraging best practice and influencing the development of policies and practices that support the human-companion animal bond.



Writtle University College is one of the largest land-based university colleges in the UK. Writtle College provides FE and HE programmes. It also offers apprenticeships and short courses.



The Donkey Sanctuary is a British charitable organisation devoted to the welfare of donkeys. The charity was founded in 1969 and is one of the largest equine charities in the world

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.

Registered Charity Numbers: 1164009 (England & Wales) SC047256 (Scotland)



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