

The Gazette



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

Welcome to the fourteenth 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.

There have obviously been some major changes to scheduled events due to the global Covid-19 crisis and the pet and wider animal industry has been affected as badly as any. We wish all our readers well and hope for a speedy solution to these awful circumstances.



Accreditation of ABTC

Talks with the RCVS resumed in November following delays caused largely by Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

A virtual meeting was held on the 18th of November in order to clarify some points of legal detail and restart the process.

It was a positive and constructive two hours that concluded with a resolution to build on current progress in the near future.

ABTC takes on more trustees

Following a call for additional trustees to join the management team of ABTC in the Spring we were delighted to receive over 20 volunteers. This list included a wide range of highly qualified individuals and it was difficult to choose the five who made the final selection.

The new trustees joined us during the Summer giving us the ability to share the workload. There are now eleven trustees who meet regularly to govern the charity and develop the future of the sector's regulator.

Chain of communication from Government

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

As the Covid-19 crisis has spread and restrictions on work and social activity have fluctuated across the UK ABTC has been able to provide regular updates and clarify the situation for Trainers and Behaviourists as changes have been announced.

ABTC has a direct chain of communication through its membership of the Canine Feline Sector Group on to Defra and central Government.

ABTC employs secretariat services

As a part of ABTC's wider development and in addition to the increased number of Trustees ABTC advertised for secretariat services in the Spring.

There were a number of applicants for the position which was eventually filled at the end of April. This move has proven to be an excellent step, reducing the administrative burden on trustees and providing a focal point for all communications with the Council and improved responsiveness to enquiries

Special points of interest:

- > RCVS accreditation
- > Covid-19 updates
- > New trustees

ABTC launches new website



After ten years of development and additions the ABTC website had become more and more difficult to navigate so it was decided to upgrade to a new, more user friendly site.

Incorporating a wide range of changes and simplifications the new site was launched in the Summer. There are subtle changes to the logo, new web address and contact email addresses, new register formats and much more.

To visit the site go to:

<https://www.abtc.org.uk/>

The ABTC social media exposure has also been expanded with the addition of Twitter and Instagram to the long standing Facebook page. The address (for both) is @ABTCouncil.



'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. (£250 from 2021)

Advisory Organisation

Advisory organisations are those that are animal welfare related stakeholders but do not directly represent practitioners. Membership fee £220 annually. (£200 from 2021)

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. They may take part in discussions and consultations but they do not have any voting rights. Membership fee £50 annually. (£75 from 2021)

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

List of Recognised Courses expanding

Since launching the process to recognise relevant courses the list has grown to include 8 educational programmes.

All courses are examined in detail to ensure each includes the necessary learning outcomes that satisfy the many knowledge and understanding requirements for the role it is listed against. To view the list visit: <https://www.abtc.org.uk/practitioners/careers/>

Training Assessors

A common characteristic amongst the wider animal training and behaviour community is that few are given a formal skills assessment in order to become qualified. For those that are the assessment is rarely carried out by trained assessors.

All ABTC practitioners must undergo a formal skills assessment in addition to satisfying the knowledge and understanding requirements of their chosen role.

A programme of training assessors has now been established to ensure that members of all Practitioner Organisations are given the same high level of professionalism when being assessed as is expected of them as ABTC registered practitioners.

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Winchester House
Deane Gate Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2UH
<https://www.abtc.org.uk/>
Contact: admin@abtc.org.uk

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

ABTC meetings held remotely

The 31st and 32nd scheduled meetings and 11th AGM were held remotely due to earlier postponement due to the Covid crisis.

Further regular trustee meetings have also been held electronically as ABTC development continues.

In some ways the advent of remote meetings has proven to be a positive step forward in the management of ABTC. Sub-committees and trustees have been able to discuss issues face to face at short notice without the need for travel.

Remote meetings seem to have become part of the 'new normal'.

BSI Membership

**Because we're committed to
the highest standards**

The Equality Register

Member

New Membership

Another two organisations have joined the ranks of ABTC since the last newsletter:

The Gundog Trainers Academy becomes the latest Practitioner Organisation to be approved. It is very welcome to see a group from this particular discipline upholding the principles promoted by ABTC.



For further information visit
www.gundogtrainersacademy.co.uk

Joining the ranks of Advisory Organisations is Dogtaggs. At Dogtaggs people can learn how to work with the natural skills that their dogs have. Activities involving tracking, searching, and traditional herding are offered. For more information visit:
<https://dogtaggs.co.uk/>



Enquiries about membership come in on a regular basis as more organisations want to be a part of the ABTC and all it stands for.

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 social media page for free. Applications to admin@abtc.org.uk in the first instance. The right to withhold publication is reserved.



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