

# The Gazette



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

Welcome to issue seven of the ABTC Gazette which continues to highlight news and developments around the work of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council in the animal training and behaviour sector.

The theme that leaps from the page in this issue is that of 'Regulation and Ethics at Work', a number of activities, both verifying the quality of recent work and planning ahead to make the benefits of a regulated sector be experienced in the wider community are reported.



ABTC is about to pilot a scheme that aims to provide funding to subsidise behaviour and training interventions for deserving cases.

Initially it will be run on a limited scale in conjunction with the PDSA to establish its viability and assuming it is deemed to be a viable proposition it will be slowly rolled out to a wider audience.

Only ABTC registered practitioners will be able to take part in this scheme as they are the only trainers and behaviourists that have been vali-

dated as meeting the required standard of knowledge and skills.

Behaviour issues are given as the most common reason for pets being placed in rescue and many pet owners need help paying for professional advice.

Both pet and owner benefit with the right advice and help, the companionship that is often much needed can be maintained and the trauma of being relinquished to a rescue home can be avoided.

This is an ambitious scheme with the potential for huge benefits that could spread well beyond the owner and their pet. It will be a demonstration of the One Welfare concept at work.



## APGAW meeting 29 Nov 2016

APGAW invited four people to answer questions and discuss issues regarding the need for regulation of the training and behaviour sector. The panel answering questions were David Montgomery (Chair ABTC), Rosie Barclay (Chair APBC), Rob Alleyne (Board member of TCBTS) and David Cavill (Chair PetBC). It was an extremely well attended meeting with many left standing throughout and much was covered in a short period of time. The discussion was closed with a printed paper being delivered to APGAW making the case for Political Endorsement of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council as providing a suitable industry standard and independent regulatory body for behaviourists and trainers (Recommendation 3 in the Dog Strategy report).

## Special points of interest:

- > ABTC Welfare Fund
- > APGAW meeting
- > Audit of registers
- > New Patron

## ABTC Registers Audit

As part of the ABTC's ethos of quality and transparency the published registers of practitioners was audited in March 2017.

A random list of names was selected from each register and their credentials (including CPD records) were independently verified as meeting the required standard to qualify for an entry on the appropriate register.

## Registered Charity status



ABTC is pleased to announce that it has now been registered as a charity in Scotland, registered number SC047256. This marks another major step in the steady development of the Council, already a registered charity in England and Wales meaning that ABTC's charitable activities now cover the whole of Great Britain.

*'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 .

### ABTC Ethics in Dog Training Statement

As part of ABTC's ongoing work to promote humane practice in the training and behaviour therapy of animals we have prepared a statement detailing our position on ethical dog training.

Notification of the statement was posted on Facebook which reached 8,174 people in 24 hours indicating the level of interest in the subject and the size of the audience that ABTC can reach. To read the statement go to: <http://www.abtcouncil.org.uk/public-information.html>

The purpose of the statement is to provide people with a benchmark from which a comparison can be made to any services being offered. It gives the reader the opportunity to make a qualified judgement about the methods being used.

Sadly some television programmes, for instance, promote questionable methods and provide viewers with a false impression of how to conduct training . This statement will go some way to addressing these issues.

### New Patron



We welcome the enthusiastic support of our new patron, Stephen Dixon.

Stephen is a journalist and broadcaster who has a passion for cats and animal welfare coupled with a strong belief in the value of education. Stephen also works with Diabetes UK, the charity for people with Diabetes . As a Type 1 Diabetic himself, Stephen is keen to help raise awareness of this chronic illness through education, information and support.

*'Promoting excellence in Animal Behaviour and Training'*

### Ethical Advertising standards

All member organisations of ABTC must adhere to published ethical advertising guidelines as a condition of membership and this responsibility encompasses all of their individual members.

The sector has been blighted by poor advertising practices, particularly on the internet on social media and websites. Typically there are many examples of unsubstantiated claims and exaggerated descriptions of expertise that go unchallenged due to a lack of policing.

This is now a thing of the past for anyone coming under the 'umbrella' of ABTC. In the last year there have been corrections made to three websites and one referred to the Advertising Standards Agency as a result of non-compliance.

### BSAVA Congress 2017

Once again, the ABTC Shows Team were in attendance at the BSAVA Congress this year. They reported a busier time speaking to delegates than last year and an increased awareness of



ABTC and its position in the animal welfare sector.

Animal Behaviour and Training Council,  
c/o Montpellier Professional Limited  
Unit 18 Petteril Side,  
Harraby Green Business Park,  
Carlisle  
CA1 2SQ

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

## BSI Membership

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

The Equality Register

Member 2017

### 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)  
"A not for profit organisation"



Find us on  
**Facebook**

