

The Gazette



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

Welcome to the eighth edition of the ABTC Gazette. This issue sees further expansion of membership of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council and a political recommendation for regulation of the sector.

A little later than expected, this issue has been held back awaiting news of the publication of our first paper and the news that APGAW recommends the political recognition of a single regulatory body for trainers and behaviourists.



The International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations

(www.iahaio.org) has a new, peer reviewed, open access journal. People and Animals: The International Journal of Research and Practice (PAJI). Its first edition is due to be published in December 2017 and ABTC were honoured to contribute a paper.

The paper titled Animal Welfare: A Contemporary Understanding Demands a Contemporary Approach to Behaviour and Training, was co-authored by Dr Anne McBride and David Montgomery. It examines the rationale for regulation and charts the progress and challenges faced in setting up a regulatory body.

Welfare Fund Pilot gets under way.



The pilot project to start a scheme for providing heavily subsidised quality advice for those least able to afford it has now started. Following several months of preparation in conjunction with PDSA



The 2017 BVNA Congress was held at Telford again and as usual was a hugely popular event. This year there were two whole days of behaviour lectures on the scientific programme attracting well over 200 each day and nearly all of the lecturers were either registered with ABTC or associated in other ways.

The ABTC stand was kept busy with approximately 200 visitors every day as well making it our busiest and most successful congress to date.



The Training and Behaviour Sector should be regulated say APGAW

In November the All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare published a report into the problem of livestock worrying and what could be done to address the problem.

One of the key proposals is that Trainers and Behaviourists should be regulated so that the dog owning public can receive reliable advice from properly qualified practitioners.

ABTC are obviously strongly in favour of such a move.

Special points of interest:

- > ABTC Welfare Fund
- > APGAW report
- > New Members
- > BVNA Congress 2017

New Member Organisations

Since we last reported on new member organisations four more have been approved. Earlier this year the Professional Association of Canine



Trainers (PACT) and Puppy School successfully went through the rigorous application process. In the latest round of assessments the UK members of the Karen Pryor Academy and Trainers of Dog Knows were also accepted.



Despite these advances there are still organisations that operate without independent industry validation that could come under ABTC regulation. ABTC now represents over 700 trainers and behaviourists who have been assessed to our exacting standards.

'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 .

International connections



In 2015 ABTC was approached by an influential group of organisations headed by the British Columbia SPCA who were keen to get a system of regulation similar to the ABTC model established in Canada. Their work continues and we are regularly in touch to offer help and advice where possible.



In September this year ABTC were approached again but this time from a group in New Zealand headed by the New Zealand Companion Animal Council.

In response to these expressions of interest and support ABTC is establishing a list of International Associates to be displayed on the web site.

Regulating Websites

In the last 12 months ABTC has been enforcing its Ethical Advertising Guidelines. There have been eight cases of websites that required alteration. All but one made the necessary changes promptly but one needed the additional weight of the Advertising Standards Agency in order to achieve the removal of untruthful and misleading claims.

This is just another aspect of regulation that often gets overlooked but is a key part of professional behaviour.

Policy on Shock Collars agreed

As ABTC develops so policies and procedures are discussed and agreed. At the recent regular Council meeting in November at Defra the topic of shock collars was raised, prompted by the Scottish Governments proposal to allow their use by trainers after receiving training.

It was unanimously agreed that ABTC could not support the use of these devices and would press for a total ban in Scotland. It is to be discussed again by Scottish MPs in January 2018

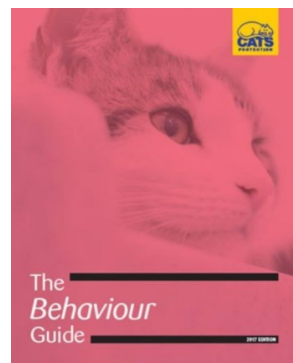
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Annual Audit of Registers

The annual audit of registers got under way in November. This process makes a random selection of individuals listed on all of the ABTC registers and checks their qualifications against the appropriate standard, it also checks their CPD record for the previous 12 months. An additional element was introduced this year is for the parent organisations to declare that they are implementing the requirements of ISO17024 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons. The audit report is expected in the Spring of 2018.

Cats Protection Behaviour Guide

Cats Protection have launched a behaviour guide. While it is aimed primarily at CP volunteers and staff, as well as the vet profession that are involved in the care of CP cats, it is hoped that this guide will also be useful for other animal welfare charities and boarding catteries as well as veterinary, vet nurse, behaviour and animal welfare students. It can be downloaded from the CP website.



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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.

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