

# The Gazette



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

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the ABTC Gazette. The Council has always been busy but if anything, activity has increased through the pandemic with many more remote meetings taking place.

This issue has a distinctly equine feel about it as we join NEWC, the Equine sub committee gets under way and one of our trustees is rewarded for her endeavours raising awareness of equine welfare issues.

The Council membership continues to grow and our influence becomes more tangible as we cement our position in the world of animal welfare.

## ABTC joins NEWC



Since its inception in 1977, as a forum for like-minded equine charities to share ideas and welfare concerns, the National Equine Welfare Council C.I.C. has become a nationally recognised and respected member body that unifies the sector on matters of welfare concern.

It is the NEWC's mission to protect the welfare of the horse, pony, donkey and mule by ensuring that everyone who has an interest or association with an equine makes its health and welfare the overriding factor in all decision making.

NEWC membership provides an assurance to both the public and the industry that equine welfare is the priority. Through working collaboratively with the industry and its members, NEWC is committed to improving efficiency through sharing information and resources.

Streamlining education, regulation and enforcement initiatives are NEWC key objectives to ensure horse welfare standards steadily improve.

## Progress towards regulation



Discussions with the RCVS have resumed in the wake of delays from Brexit and the pandemic. A meeting was held in August between the RCVS and ABTC to explore some of the more technical details of our activities and how they would be best governed.

There is agreement that the sector is in need of regulating and there is a clear aim to achieve that outcome from all concerned. The vet-led team model is seen as the appropriate way ahead.

Internal discussions are now under way to examine some of the possible legal and practical issues associated with regulating the behaviour and training sector. Meanwhile work goes on within the RCVS on new veterinary legislation to replace the Veterinary Surgeons Act and how paraprofessionals can be incorporated.

More meetings are anticipated in the future and we will report on progress as it unfolds. The process is slow but steady and the trajectory is clear.



## Promotional video

In October ABTC launched its first promotional video which was kindly created for us by Cats Protection. It perfectly captures the essence of our work in a concise manner. Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ABTCouncil/videos/165073855826794>

## ABTC on Social Media

Our audience continues to grow on the various social media platforms with nearly 8,900 followers on Facebook. The social media team are kept quite busy with a steady stream of enquiries about how to become qualified and a wide range of other topics.



## Special points of interest:

- > Sector regulation
- > Celebrating achievement
- > Social Media

*'Promoting excellence in Animal Behaviour' and Training'*

## Membership Categories (new fee structure for 2021)

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 £250 annually.

### Advisory Organisation

Advisory organisations are those that are animal welfare related stakeholders but do not directly represent practitioners. Membership fee £200 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. They may take part in discussions and consultations but they do not have any voting rights. Membership fee £75 annually.

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

Individual practitioner registration fees are £15 annually.

## Celebrating achievement



Sarah is a candidate member of FABC. For the full BVA article see: <https://is.gd/4P91qB>

### BVA Young Vet of the Year 2021 finalist

Sarah Penturn is a BVA Young Vet of the Year 2021 finalist. Talking about the nomination Sarah said 'Joining Dogs Trust and being given the opportunity to design a residency in Behavioural Medicine changed my life. I am privileged to have been able to learn from, and with work with, so many accomplished, talented, and inspirational people at Dogs Trust, and it is so incredibly humbling that they felt I deserved to be nominated for this award.'

### Honorary Degree Awarded

ABTC trustee Justine Harrison (centre) has been awarded an honorary degree by Writtle University College for distinction in the equine industry. She attended the graduation ceremony alongside Khadijah Mellah, the first British Muslim woman to win a horse race and Ros Canter, world champion eventer who also accepted honorary degrees. She said 'I feel very proud to be honoured alongside two such inspirational women.'



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### BSI Membership

Because we're committed to  
the highest standards



'Promoting excellence  
in Animal Behaviour  
and Training'

### New Membership

Another organisation has joined the ranks of ABTC as a Supporting Member since the last newsletter. This brings our membership to 38 organisations and there is another group in the process of applying.



Conservation K9 Consultancy provides specially trained wildlife detection dogs, handlers and trainers to aid conservation efforts. They work on a variety of conservation projects from the smallest assistance to flagship programmes worldwide.



We had a stand at the BVNA Congress this year, run by fantastic volunteers each day. We had a lot of interest in our work and a wide variety of enquiries about the work of the ABTC as well as a lot of interest in ensuring clients are directed towards appropriate professionals for support with their pets. The Behaviour Stream of talks was excellent, with many ABTC practitioners speaking. Thanks to those who came to see us at the stand as well.

### Equine group

The new equine committee is becoming established with a diverse representation from organisations across the industry including BHS, BIAZA, Blue Cross, Writtle University College, RSPCA, Donkey Sanctuary, IAABC, World Horse Welfare, Horse Trust, APBC and FABC. They are considering the best way forward to get information out to the equestrian public efficiently and are working on an initial promotional push.



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