

# The Gazette



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

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of the ABTC Gazette. Work has continued to expand on many fronts building the Council's profile, membership and influence in the animal behaviour and training sector.

Regulation is progressing on a slightly different pathway than expected for now but the important thing is that it is still progressing.

## Progress towards regulation



Readers will be aware that ABTC has for some years been in discussion with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) about us becoming an Accredited organisation under the RCVS umbrella.

We have put in a considerable effort to provide the RCVS with our processes and procedures to show that ABTC is a well-regulated organisation and that individual members of Practitioner Organisations have proven their competence in their chosen role. As they have slowly become aware of the level of detail required to regulate our sector it might not now be possible until the proposed Veterinary Services Act (which has yet to be drafted) is agreed. We continue to work together and we are still making progress towards our mutual aim but realistically it is going to be some time before it comes to fruition.

The most recent communication from RCVS commends ABTC for continuing to work towards the shared goal of raising and assuring standards in this key part of the vet-led team.

We remain convinced that our model of regulation of all trainers and behaviourists is the only viable way forwards to progress the implementation of standards that the industry so desperately needs.

## BVNA and ABTC collaboration



**BVNA**  
British Veterinary  
Nursing Association

The BVNA has collaborated with the ABTC, to develop a new Learning Pathway in Behaviour, as part of its CPD offer to its members.

The ABTC is proud to have developed this excellent new on-line resource, alongside the BVNA, for veterinary nurses who have an interest in behaviour.

The potential impact of developing the understanding and awareness of veterinary nurses of evidence-based approaches to changing animal behaviour is enormous in terms of improved welfare.

Veterinary staff are an important source of information for clients, and potential clients, about animal training and behaviour and it is essential that the information provided should be humane and evidence-based approaches and techniques. Working with owners will help the veterinary team to provide a fear free practice for their patients.

This new learning Pathway introduces these concepts and is a stepping stone for nurses who may want to study further to become behaviour professionals, in particular Animal Behaviour Technicians within the suite of ABTC Practitioner roles.

The ABTC team worked effectively and collaboratively with BVNA to produce on-line webinars, activities, reading opportunities for this assessed course. We hope that this sort of approach can be replicated in the future to develop further CPD opportunities for BVNA members. The Learning Pathway in Behaviour is due to launch in June 2022 and already over 400 nurses have registered their interest.

Special points of interest:

- > Sector regulation
- > ABTC Advocates
- > BVNA learning pathway in behaviour

**ABTC Advocates launching later this year...**



The Trustees are putting the final touches to a new initiative which aims to raise funds and awareness for the charity. This scheme will initially be available to veterinary practices only, and if that is a success will be opened to other supporters too.

'ABTC Advocates' are veterinary practices who wish to show their support for the ABTC, and its aims. They will make a donation to the charity and in return receive an educational webinar to help further their staff's behaviour and training knowledge, so they in turn can best care for their patients. The practices will also be listed on our 'Advocates page' and be able to display an ABTC Advocate logo. We hope this will help owners find a vet practice which recognises the importance of not just physiological, but psychological wellbeing too.

If any veterinary practices would like to express their interest please do email [admin@abtc.org.uk](mailto:admin@abtc.org.uk) and you will be the first to know when it is ready to launch.

*'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 £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.

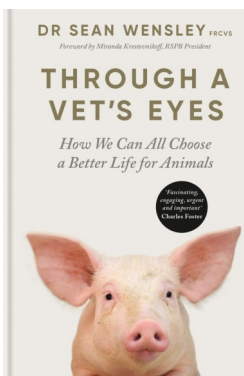
### Supporting Organisation

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.

### New book being published on 28th April 2022



Dr Sean Wensley is an award-winning UK veterinarian and recent President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA). He chairs the Animal Welfare Working Group of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), which represents veterinary organisations from 40 European countries. Sean has contributed to animal welfare and conservation projects around the world and in 2017 received the inaugural World Veterinary Association (WVA) Global Animal Welfare Award for Europe. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is Senior Veterinary Surgeon for Communication and Education at the national UK veterinary charity, the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA). He is also a long term supporter of ABTC. His debut book is about how we can choose a better life for animals, from the chickens we eat to the pets we keep.



The Professional Association of Canine Trainers (PACT) attended Crufts this year promoting high standards of skills, ethics & science-led dog training for Dog Trainers and ABTC. It was wonderful to meet hundreds of people keen to learn about the Council and its members' efforts seeking sector regulation. It also was lovely to meet so many proud members of our partner practitioner organisations. Perhaps the most warming

was to hear from people keen to take the next steps on their journey towards formal recognition and ATI accreditation. We had some wonderful conversations with businesses and a lot of interest in our courses and ABTC accreditation from dog training professionals. We hope to return to Crufts in 2023 and look forward to seeing some of you there too.

Animal Behaviour and Training Council,  
c/o Milsted Langdon  
Winchester House  
Deane Gate Avenue  
Taunton  
TA1 2UH  
<https://abtc.org.uk/>  
Contact: [admin@abtc.org.uk](mailto:admin@abtc.org.uk)

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

## BSI Membership

Because we're committed to the highest standards



'Promoting excellence in Animal Behaviour and Training'

## New Membership



The Natural Animal Centre has been delivering education since 1997 and has supported the ideal of standards through ABTC since our early days. Last year they embarked on a programme of development to come more closely into line with ABTC requirements and now becomes the latest organisation to join the ranks of ABTC supporting organisations. This brings the total membership to 39 organisations.



HMRC now has a dedicated Task Force for the Dog, Cat and Equine Sector

It has always been possible to report suspected tax evasion and tax fraud but the new task force is responsible specifically for the dog, cat and equine sector to which reports of fraud involving animals will be sent directly.

As with any activity that involves payment for services, there is the potential for tax evasion. If you suspect anyone involved in the animal sector is avoiding paying appropriate taxes—whether it be breeding, selling, training or behaviour services etc the potential fraud can be reported at [https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/shortforms/form/TEH\\_IRF](https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/shortforms/form/TEH_IRF) or Telephone: 0800 788 887.

You do not have to give your personal details, and any information you give will be treated as confidential.

