

# The Gazette



A periodic round up of news and developments in the Animal Behaviour and Training sector

Welcome to the nineteenth 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.

UKAS accreditation of ABTC is making steady progress with the first stage nearing completion in preparation for the final assessment.

A new apprenticeship has been developed based on the ABTC ATI standard to update the existing Animal Trainer provision.



## Progress towards regulation

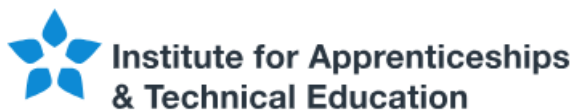
The ABTC sub-committee dedicated to preparing our application for UKAS accreditation has been working tirelessly for much of this year.

Those efforts have paid dividends as progress through the application process has been maintained at a pleasing rate.

The first stage of the process was to work with UKAS to ensure that all the ABTC policies, procedures and wider documentation is ready for their preliminary assessment. That stage is now approaching successful completion and it is hoped that this assessment can be carried out early in 2024.

With Council approval, we will then engage in stage two, which involves inspections of those policies and procedures (particularly assessments) in practice.

## New Animal Training Instructor Apprenticeship



The ABTC has been working closely with stakeholders to update and develop the existing L4 Animal Trainer Apprenticeship.

The Apprenticeship Trailblazer Group, comprising some 50 employers and organisations within the animal training sector, including ABTC, has endorsed a proposal to re-title the Apprenticeship to Animal Training Instructor (ATI) and to align it with the ABTC Standard. The IFATE (Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education) representative in the group has ensured the new ATI Apprenticeship is developed in accordance with national guidelines. The alignment of both ATI Standards (ie Apprenticeship and ABTC), along with their assessment processes, demonstrates the validity and importance of the ABTC roles within the animal training and behaviour industry.

## Special points of interest:

- > UKAS accreditation
- > T level
- > BVNA Congress
- > SSPCA join ABTC

## BVNA Congress 2023



ABTC Advisory Member, British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) held their annual congress in Telford from 6-8th October this year.

Celebrating their 50th year with the theme 'Empowerment', this landmark event and high calibre speakers provided opportunities for learning, exploring and connecting with fellow attendees.

BVNA Council member and ABTC trustee Nikki McLeod delivered an inspiring and entertaining lecture built around species-specific communication in cats.

It was easy to see from the audience attending the lecture and those coming to the ABTC stand, that the veterinary nursing profession want to learn more about animal behaviour. We were pleased to promote on the stand, the Pathway to Animal Behaviour course," said Nikki.

*'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.

## Seminal paper downloaded over 2000 times.

In December 2017 the paper titled 'Animal Welfare: A Contemporary Understanding Demands a Contemporary Approach to Behavior and Training' was [published in **People and Animals** the journal of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organisations (IAHAIO). It argued the need for regulation of the animal behaviour and training industry and described the model that ABTC is based upon.

That paper is still read online regularly and so far has been downloaded 2057 times.

<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/paij/vol1/iss1/4>

## Diversity Equity and Inclusivity

We are delighted to share some updates from ABTC's DEI Working Group. We will soon be launching a new Accessibility & Inclusivity Guidelines – this is a toolkit for our members to use, with the purpose of providing some simple suggestions to help organisations support all their members and make everyone feel included, welcome and appreciated. Along with the new guidelines, ABTC will soon be helping make services provided by ABTC practitioners more accessible to BSL users with some new interpreters functionality coming soon. Do keep your eyes open for these two exciting initiatives, launching across the next few weeks.

## Fundraising



Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Animal Behaviour and Training Council with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 7,300 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abtc/>

So far nearly £700 has been raised to aid our work for animal welfare.

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<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



We are delighted to welcome the **Scottish SPCA** on board as Advisory members of ABTC

The SSPCA's charitable objectives are to prevent cruelty to animals and to encourage kindness and humanity in their treatment. This relates to the purposes of the advancement of animal welfare and the advancement of education in relation to animal welfare in the Charities Act.

We also welcome two new Supporting Members:

### Yellow Dog



Yellow Dog is an international campaign to create awareness around the world that 'Some Dogs need Space'.

### Kids Around Dogs



KAD is an association of Dog Professionals and Child Care Professionals who specialise in working with families and schools to help children and dogs to live in harmony together.

