

18 January 2024

The recent communication from CCAB Certification Ltd dated 19 December has come to the attention of the Trustees. We wish to address several key issues raised therein, particularly concerning our relationship with ASAB Acc and the broader implications for the animal behaviour and training sector.

Firstly, it is important to clarify that the ABTC has always maintained a commitment to high standards in the field of animal behaviour and training. Our insistence that ASAB Acc make specific revisions to their assessment process was in line with our dedication to uphold these standards. These revisions were not arbitrary but aimed at ensuring that assessments met the comprehensive [ABTC standards](#), which are designed to be inclusive and accessible while maintaining rigorous quality.

The departure of ASAB Acc from ABTC was regrettable. However, it is essential to understand that their decision was made amidst a process where we sought to align their assessments with the evolving standards of the sector. Our goal has always been to foster unity and high standards within the animal behaviour and training community, including its integration with the veterinary sector.

Regarding the qualifications for Certificated Clinical Animal Behaviourists (CCAB), the ABTC believes that practitioners can demonstrate that they are operating at the required level to be competent in the Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CAB) role in a number of ways. We recognise that practitioners can demonstrate their abilities to meet the requirements of the Knowledge & Understanding and Performance Criteria through a variety of learning experiences – hence the ABTC [APEL](#) (Assessment of Prior Experience and/or Learning) route. The notion that a veterinary degree is equivalent to a 2:1 is not based on any evidence; yet the insistence that others working with animals must have a minimum 2:1 is divisive as it fails to be representative of the broad cultural and socio-economic backgrounds that many behaviourists may have. It does not reflect that different professions have varied educational and assessment frameworks. Moreover, UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) support our strategy and have also stipulated that standards must be written in terms of criteria that must be achieved. Grading that requirement cannot be a part of the specification. Our aim is to ensure that all practitioners, regardless of their specific paths, meet the comprehensive Knowledge &

Understanding, and Performance Criteria, set by the ABTC for the role in which they are practising. Similarly, there is no evidence that carrying out research, per se, leads to more effective CABs.

Furthermore, ABTC's stance is not to segregate behaviourists and trainers but to ensure that all practitioners meet the high standards necessary for the welfare of animals and their caregivers. This is why UKAS accreditation is crucial for moving the animal behaviour and training sector forward, as we know there are many individuals practising as trainers/instructors, or engaging in behavioural work, without having been assessed to the high standards set and maintained by the ABTC.

The ABTC is committed to a united sector that is accountable and dedicated to improving animal welfare through training and behavioural therapy. The allegations by CCAB Ltd of incorrect information being shared are concerning and we take these claims seriously. There are several examples of incorrect information put forward by CCAB Ltd in their statement, in relation to the ABTC position on standards and assessments, which as stated, have not changed within the timescales referred to. We believe in open and constructive dialogue but will seek legal counsel if necessary to address any continued dissemination of misleading information.

In conclusion, the ABTC remains steadfast in our mission to uphold the highest standards in the animal behaviour and training sector, ensuring diversity, inclusivity, accessibility, and professional integrity. We hope to move forward collaboratively, focusing on the welfare of animals and the betterment of our sector.

ABTC Board of Trustees

Further details about ABTC can be found in the [FAQs](#)

Practitioners can find further information in the [FAQs](#)