

The Gazette



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

Welcome to the 22nd edition of the ABTC Gazette! As time passes the workload on trustees and staff increases at a phenomenal rate, running a professional organisation in a professional manner proves to be a considerably different proposition to the irregular and disjointed arrangements that have characterised the sector in the past. The UKAS process moves steadily towards its inevitable successful conclusion although it has to be said that the work involved was probably underestimated when the first approach was made, we are meeting the challenge though. So far it has been an education for those involved but this simply emphasises the level of detail and quality management demanded to satisfy the requirements.



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Review - Veterinary Surgeons Act

On the 6th May ABTC was invited to a meeting with DEFRA and other Allied Veterinary Professionals (AVPs) to discuss the shape of a potential replacement for the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) that could include other professions apart from veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses.

More meetings are scheduled to consider how the possible new legislation should develop, initially based on the RCVS recommendations for modernising regulation that has already been published.



Sponsorship opportunities are now available for individuals, small businesses and larger companies alike.

If you want to show your support for the work of the ABTC in providing the standards required to eliminate bad practise and improve animal welfare here is a simple way to do it.

Different levels of support can be made in return for being associated with this trusted brand.



New patron

Zazie Todd, PhD, is an animal behaviour expert and the award-winning author of *Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy*, *Purr: The Science of Making Your Cat Happy*, and *Bark! The Science of Helping Your Anxious, Fearful, or Reactive Dog*. She is the creator of Companion Animal Psychology blog and has a column at Psychology Today. She has a PhD in Psychology, an Advanced Certificate of Feline Behaviour (with Distinction) from International Cat Care, and is an honours graduate of the Academy for Dog Trainers. Originally from Leeds, she lives near Vancouver, Canada, with her husband, a dog and a cat.



Special points of
interest:

- > VSA Review
- > UKAS process
- > New patron



UKAS

The UKAS accreditation process continues and the first stage of our application is in the process of evaluation. It has been a very lengthy and detailed process which has required significant development of policies and procedures taking many hundreds of hours work in order to bring ABTC to the level of compliance required by UKAS.

People often ask why ABTC is seeking UKAS accreditation and the answer is two-fold, firstly it provides independent confirmation that our processes are efficient and valid, assessments are accurate and we are competent to deliver our service. Secondly it was recommended by Defra as UKAS accreditation is a prerequisite to government recognition.

One thing this whole process has brought into clear focus is that it is highly unlikely the level of quality management required by UKAS is going to be matched anywhere else in the animal behaviour and training sector.

Coming soon CPD opportunities

CPD opportunities are getting underway with the 'lunch and learn' topics being made available.

ABTC will also be endorsing CPD courses and events on offer from approved providers. Keep in touch with our social media for more information.

*'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 £275 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. They may take part in discussions and consultations but they do not have any voting rights. Membership fee £80 annually.

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

Individual practitioner registration fees are £15 annually.

ABTC Shop

Welcome to the ABTC shop! Show your support for ABTC with a product from the range of goods available at <https://shop.abtc.org.uk/>

"From comfortable, durable apparel to practical accessories, each item is made with ethically sourced materials, ensuring a low environmental impact while supporting ABTC's charitable aims." Fiona Cooke ABTC Chair

Every movement needs visibility. Ethical animal training and behaviour therapy is no different. By launching a dedicated shop, we're giving our practitioner and supporter community a chance to wear their values, spread awareness, and directly support our cause.



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ABTC Events Stand

The ABTC stand has been busy attending events across the UK already this year. In March we were at both the BVBA Study Day and the BSAVA 2025 Congress in Manchester.

What has become strikingly apparent over time is how visitors' questions have



changed from 'Who are you and what do you do?' to 'Good to see you here, how do I get involved and support what you are doing?' The level of support we experience at these events is very encouraging.

As we go to press we are already planning our trip to the BVNA Congress later in the year and scheduling the various presentations we are regularly asked to give.



Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Animal Behaviour and Training Council with #easyfundraising!

Thank you also to those who have recently signed up. 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 **£1100** has been raised to contribute to our work for improved animal welfare.



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Registered Charity Numbers: 1164009
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BSI Membership

**Because we're committed to
the highest standards**



Social Media

ABTC is now active on Bluesky at abtcouncil.bsky.social

Check out our feed and see our video shorts explaining what we are about.

