

The Gazette



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

Special Points of Interest:

- RDO taskforce report
- VSA Act review
- Final stages of UKAS

Latest News and Updates

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter. As we wave goodbye to the long hot Summer, we're excited to bring you the latest updates and highlights from the Behaviour and Training sector. Whether you're looking forward to new projects, upcoming events, or simply want to stay informed, you'll find everything you need right here. Forthcoming regulation following the review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) is very much a hot topic now and the subject is receiving serious attention by the government.

The RDO taskforce report

The Responsible Dog Ownership (RDO) taskforce was convened in 2022 by ministers from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to consider recommendations to promote responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks. Membership of the taskforce included representatives of the police, local authorities, major animal welfare charities and ABTC amongst others. Their report was published in September this year.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Amongst a comprehensive list of recommendations ABTC and how it manages a voluntary regulation model received a specific mention. There was also a recommendation that standards should be accredited by UKAS. It is no surprise that this is what ABTC has been working towards for several years. Baroness Hayman of Ullock (Parliamentary Under Secretary) thanked the taskforce and all those across the police, local authorities, animal welfare organisations and wider sector who contributed their time, expertise and evidence in producing an excellent report.

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) Review

The consultation on the review of the VSA was completed earlier this Year, this was then followed up with the publishing of a White Paper in July titled **'Our vision for a thriving veterinary sector'**. The paper is wide-ranging but certain aspects are of particular relevance to the behaviour and training sector and the other allied veterinary profession sectors.

'Promoting excellence in Animal Behaviour and Training'

The current lack of comprehensive regulation is identified as a barrier that increases the risk of substandard care and confusing animal owners and consumers. The lack of clarity undermines confidence and makes it harder for the public to understand who is appropriately trained and authorised to treat their animals. The regulation of these activities is therefore a major topic in the proposed new legislation.

ABTC has been reporting on the prospect of regulation for many years. Finally things are beginning to happen and we are at the heart of the process representing the behaviour and training sector.

Progress with UKAS accreditation



Finally we are approaching the end of the UKAS accreditation process which will mark the culmination of a much longer and detailed process than was anticipated. All being well it will mean that ABTC will become a UKAS accredited Certification Body.

UKAS (The United Kingdom Accreditation Service) is the only national body recognized by the UK government to evaluate these types of organizations (known as conformity assessment bodies) against strict international standards.

It has taken thousands of volunteer hours and several thousand pounds to reach this stage but the end result will be the ABTC will have been independently checked and proven competent to provide reliable certification services. It will confirm that we have the technical competence to do the job correctly following reliable processes that meet recognised global standards. Those associated with ABTC will be a part of the Behaviour and Training profession.

Support, promote and advertise your part in the profession

There are a number of ways you can contribute to the profession and help you promote your business from signing up to Easyfundraising that costs nothing but raises funds each time you shop,



become a sponsor and reap the benefits as an individual or a business, get discounts on vehicle livery, shop for ABTC merchandise or simply donate. Every penny raised goes to promote the profession that is *animal welfare through genuine qualification*.



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