

# **The Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa (C®™)**



## **WHAT AN ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR CONSULTANT DOES**

Animal Behaviour Consultants consult pet owners regarding control of their pets behaviour disorders, and assist in preventing and treating inappropriate behaviour such as aggression, anxiety, destructive chewing, digging, disobedience, escaping, excessive barking, fighting, inappropriate toileting, incompatibilities, manias, neuroses, phobias, self-mutilation, tail-chasing, etc. Pets may include dogs, cats, horses, birds, cows, etc. and Consultants specialise in certain animals.

## **Puppy socialising classes are run by many Consultants for early socialisation, prevention of behaviour problems and basic training.**

Other services may be offered by Consultants such as settling of pups and kittens, pet matching and character assessment, re-homing of animals, dog training, family counselling, veterinary services, animal training for stage and screen, grooming, breeding and showing of animals.

Seminars, meetings and newsletters are organised on a regular basis by Consultants as a continuing education requirement to keep up to date with all the latest developments in the science of animal behaviour.

## **HOW A CONSULTATION IS ARRANGED**

1. Speak to your veterinarian who can refer you to an Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant.
2. Phone the Consultant to make an appointment. You will be asked for a brief description of the problem.
3. Fees should be discussed in advance and vary depending on circumstances.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

### **Animal Behaviour Consultants resolve at all times to:**

- Offer services for which they are suitably qualified, in a professional manner. If a case is beyond a consultant's scope of expertise or experience, it is expected that consultants refer such cases to a suitably experienced or qualified colleague, or work in liaison with such consultant.
- Treat clientele with honesty, confidentiality, understanding and compassion, and ensure the client is not misled or exploited.
- Treat the animal (where applicable) in liaison with the referring veterinarian, and be aware of any potential behaviour problems that may be associated with a physiological cause. When indicated, prior to a consultation, the consultant should recommend that the client consult with their veterinarian in order to rule out or confirm such a possibility.
- Ensure that the behaviour problem is thoroughly investigated and the animal concerned fully evaluated.
- Offer advice, which is practical, and appropriate for each individual case. Such advice should be based on practical, up to date scientific applications and practices.
- Avoid any method of treatment, equipment or techniques that inflict physical pain, intimidation, and / or cause undue psychological/physiological distress.
- Use methods of behaviour modification and/or training that do not contravene any section of the Animal Protection Act No 71 of 1962.

- Encourage responsible companion animal ownership and education, and promote awareness of animal behaviour wherever possible.
- Continue to further their own education in their respective animal behaviour field, and keep abreast of new developments in this science
- Become familiar and liaise with all relevant aspects of animal industry.
- Maintain a professional relationship with other organisations in the same field, and encourage positive interaction and cooperation between organisations, and treat all professionals, regardless of affiliation with respect.
- Avoid any actions, which may discredit the A.B.C. or any of its members.

## TYPES OF ABC MEMBERSHIP

The Animal Behaviour Consultants of SA have several different categories of membership, namely:-

### Associate membership.

This type of membership does not permit a member to practice as an animal behaviour consultant. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in animal behaviour.

### Intern Animal Behaviour Consultant

Referred to as an "Intern consultant". Before applying for membership as an Intern Behaviour Consultant, the applicant must be a paid up Associate member of the ABC of SA. After the application for accreditation as an Intern ABC has been approved by the Accreditation Committee – members **ARE** permitted to practice and charge a professional fee. However clients **MUST** be informed of the consultant's accreditation status, (i.e. they are undergoing their internship as an **Intern** Behaviour Consultant). The fee the Intern Consultant charges, should be in accordance to their academic qualifications and practical hands on experience. Should Intern status remain for up to 2 years, a review will be conducted.

### Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant

After completing their internship the consultant will be eligible to be awarded accreditation as a fully Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant. This is usually reviewed every two years.

### Senior Animal Behaviour Consultant

Referred to as a senior consultant.

This title is awarded on merit to an Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant. This is usually reviewed every two years.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in animal behaviour may join the ABC initially as an Associate member.

A once off joining fee of R200.00 is charged. This is broken down as R100.00 joining fee and R100.00 subs for the year. Complete the forms, pay R200.00, mail forms and proof of payment to [secretary@animal-behaviour.org.za](mailto:secretary@animal-behaviour.org.za) and you are all done. The following year you will receive a notification to pay annual subs of R100.00.

Benefits include bi-monthly newsletters, seminars, workshops and access to up-to-date information on animal behaviour.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First names: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

(Email) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Main occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other interests: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for Associate Membership of the A.B.C. of SA and **agree to comply with the Constitution and Code of Ethics** should my application be accepted. I understand that my membership fee will be refunded should my application fail.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER:**

Please send application along with proof of payment to [secretary@animal-behaviour.org.za](mailto:secretary@animal-behaviour.org.za)

**ACCREDITED MEMBERSHIP:** Should you wish to be considered for accreditation, please direct your enquiries to [shannon@imagnet.co.za](mailto:shannon@imagnet.co.za)

**BANK DETAILS:**

**ABC of SA**

Standard Bank Fourways Crossing Account no. : 42 669 167 9 Branch Code: 00 99 53

**PLEASE USE YOUR SURNAME AS REFERENCE**