

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



[www.animal-behaviour.org.za](http://www.animal-behaviour.org.za)

## APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION.

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant. The Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa© is the only animal independent, autonomous, impartial, animal behaviour accrediting body in Southern Africa.

It makes sense for all reputable behaviourists to belong to an Association with the highest standards, that promotes professional and ethical practices. The accreditation requirements of the ABC of SA follow a similar format to those used by behavioural associations and organisations in many other countries. The ABC of SA is an internationally recognised Association, and is advertised in various ways, such as in animal publications and at promotional events.

---

## ABC OF SA 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.**
- 

**Accreditation is awarded on an individual bases, and each application is looked at on its own merit.**

**Therefore, in some cases, after review of an applicants experience, academic qualifications, etc, it is possible that an intern applicant, may, on application, be awarded full accreditation status.**

**This would apply - IF the Accreditation Committee feels that the applicant has adequate, qualifications, experience and capabilities.**

#### **APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION AS AN INTERN ABC.**

Please note the following:

- The Accreditation Committee is an "ad hoc" Committee made up of random accredited members who meet when necessary, to consider applications
- Applications for accreditation for an Internship as an animal behaviour consultant are only open to **fully paid-up, suitably qualified Associate members of the ABC of SA ©.**
- Accreditation for an Internship as an animal behaviour consultant is only considered for one species per application.
- Upon formal application for accreditation as an Intern animal behaviour consultant, (after receipt of relevant documentation) "Internship status" will be awarded at the accreditation committee's discretion. At that time, the Intern consultant will be permitted to practice and charge a fee for conducting behaviour consultations. However the Intern consultant **must** inform the client of their accreditation status (i.e. that there are undertaking their internship). The fee that the intern consultant charges, should be relevant to their qualifications and experience.

#### **THE NEXT STEP - AWARDING FULL ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Internship reviews (prior to full accreditation being awarded) will be conducted regularly, and the Intern will be considered for full accreditation during the normal renewal of accreditation, yearly or bi yearly, depending on each individual case, experience etc. and **MAY** include the following prior to full accreditation being awarded:-

- Applicants may (but not necessarily) be invited to attend a personal interview with regard to the accreditation process.

- Applicants may (but not necessarily) be given an actual case to consult, referred by the Accreditation Committee, to assist with the applicant's final evaluation.
- Applicants may (but not necessarily) be required to have an accredited member of the Accreditation Committee present during a consultation to assist with the applicant's final evaluation.

**The title "Senior Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant" is awarded on merit by the Accreditation Committee, when deemed appropriate.**

*The name Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa ©, and the ABC of SA © logo, are registered trademarks, and therefore cannot be used by anyone other than an accredited member of the ABC of SA ©.*

The following criteria is amended from time to time, in order to keep up with current international developments in the field, so it is important that your application complies with the most up-to-date criteria.

---

## **ACCREDITATION CRITERIA**

The following documents are necessary for **consideration for accreditation, and where applicable, for members applying for an internship** with the Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa ©

### **1. Current Curriculum Vitae**

- Full personal identification details, date of birth and ID.
- Present occupation, school and **animal-related, higher educational achievements** such as the various Ethology Diploma's and courses recommended by the ABC. Example: - COAPE diploma or the Ethology Consultancy Advanced courses, or a higher university degree or other recognised academic qualification in ethology.
- Proof of counselling skills competence (e.g. Lifeline course, Psychology degree or ABC Introduction to Counselling and Consulting certificate). This is **essential** as counselling / people skills are an integral part of solving behaviour problems. *Please supply certified copies of certificates or affidavits to verify.*
- Evidence of attendance of courses/seminars/workshops held under the auspices of the Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa or other relevant recognised bodies or associations/organisations. *Please supply certified copies of certificates or other proof of attendance.*
- Pertinent **animal-related qualifications, activities or involvements** and animal-related achievements: (e.g. Animal sports, dog shows, canine or equine achievements/disciplines etc.) *Please include certified proof of achievements, certificates or affidavits as well as dates, durations and contact persons.*
- Evidence of practical experience: A minimum of three years relevant, practical experience in a professional or semi-professional capacity in an animal-related environment is required. (e.g. animal welfare, stud farms, animal rehabilitation, veterinary practices, grooming parlours, game farms, kennels, training schools, etc.)

Please supply comprehensive **reference details**, duties and activities, dates, duration of involvement and **contact persons**.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

A practical working knowledge of various up to date scientific based behaviour modification methodology is essential, and applicants are expected to have a **broad amount of experience** and a **vast array of skills** such as, obedience instruction, various operant conditioning methods, clicker training, etc.

Accredited ABC's must possess in depth knowledge, and a wide range of contemporary behaviour modification tools at their disposal, and a willingness to adapt methods and tools to each individual case where necessary.

**2. Motivation For Accreditation**

Please explain in your own words, why you wish to become an accredited animal behaviour consultant, and why you think you could contribute as such.

**3. Veterinary Testimonials**

Submit a minimum of **two references from two independent veterinarians** who have knowledge of your skills and have actually referred cases to you. Apart from being character references, they must show confidence that they believe that you have the competence, knowledge, and experience to be in practise. They should also be able to attest to a positive outcome of such cases. (It is usual to report back to the veterinarian on cases that were referred.)

**4. A Three Actual Case Studies**

These should concern the respective species category in which you wish to become accredited (e.g. Canine, feline, equine, avian etc.)

**Each study should be formatted as a formal, scientific report, / ethological case study, (such as could be forwarded to a client's veterinarian) and should include:-**

- Identification of problem pet, owner, and environment.
- A description of the owner's perception of the problem behaviour.
- After appropriate observations, and the taking of a full, detailed, case history – provide an ethological and contextual assessment of the problem behaviour.
- Resolution. Provide sound, scientific methods, using ethological terminology, including practical examples of how these methods would be put into practice.
- A reasonable prognosis
- What follow up is or would be required

**4. B Please also include a letter / report to the owner**, with emphasis on the actual methods used to modify the behaviour or solve the problem. The client letter / report should be in **layman terminology**.

Describe how this was explained to the client, and include a prognosis, follow-up consultations, and the eventual outcome of the case. Please also provide comprehensive detail on the ethology of the problem behaviour in a manner the client may comprehend.

**Please include the client's names, addresses and contact details.**

**The clients should be informed of this, and that an accreditation committee member may possibly contact them for a reference. Please note that client confidentiality will be maintained as far as possible.**

## 5. **Copies Of The Above**

Copies of the above information may be e mailed (MS Word) for easy distribution to the Accreditation Committee who may be spread over a large geographical area.

## 6. **Accreditation Fee**

Submission of the required documents must include a non-refundable fee of R120.00 to cover administration costs.

### Banking details:

ABC of SA

Standard Bank, Fourways Crossing,

Account Number: 426691679.

### **Upon accreditation, you will be sent copies of:**

- ❑ ABC of SA © Code of Ethics (2 copies)
- ❑ Professional Agreement Form (2 copies)
- ❑ Accreditation Certificate (valid for 2 years only)

The Professional Agreement and the Code of Ethics must be agreed to, and one copy of each signed and returned to the Accreditation Secretary of the ABC of SA © for our records. Accreditation is reviewed every two years and in order to retain accreditation, accredited members must prove knowledge of new developments in the field of animal behaviour and that they are actively practising. Annual subscription to the ABC of SA © must also be kept valid, or membership and accreditation will fall away.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Wishing you success in your application.

Yours faithfully

*Samantha Walpole*

Secretary ABC of SA

### **ACCREDITATION PACKAGE TO BE E MAILED TO:**

**secretary@animalbehaviour.org.za**

- Completed membership form (only required if applicant is not an existing ABC of SA © associate member)
- Completed application for accreditation form
- Certificates of ethology related qualification (certified copies)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation for accreditation
- Veterinary testimonials
- Case studies
- Non refundable accreditation fee of R120.00 or proof of payment

**ABC of SA © APPLICATION FOR INTERN OR FULL ACCREDITATION:**  
*This document is to be completed and returned with all above requirements*

<b>APPLICANT'S FULL NAME/S</b>	
<b>MARITAL STATUS:</b>	
<b>DEPENDENTS:</b>	
<b>DEPENDENTS RESIDING IN HOUSEHOLD:</b>	
<b>HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:</b>	
<b>BRIEF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:</b>	
<b>HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:</b>	
<b>ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY DEEM TO BE OF INTEREST OR RELEVANT TO YOUR APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION:</b>	
<b>PLEASE STATE MEMBERSHIP OR INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER ANIMAL RELATED ORGANISATIONS:</b>	
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>IDENTITY NUMBER:</b>	
<b>HOME TELEPHONE:</b>	
<b>OFFICE TELEPHONE:</b>	
<b>FAX:</b>	
<b>CELLULAR:</b>	
<b>E.MAIL ADDRESS:</b>	

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby apply for Accreditation as an Intern /

Full Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant

in the field of ... (one species only) \_\_\_\_\_ behaviour,

and I hereby undertake to abide by the Constitution and Code of Ethics and any amendments thereto.

I am fully aware that disciplinary steps, can be taken against me in the event of a contravention of the ABC of SA © Code of Ethics.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ ON: \_\_\_\_\_

AT: \_\_\_\_\_