



The Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa ©

www.animal-behaviour.org.za

APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION

Thank you for your interest in applying for accreditation as an Animal Behaviour Consultant with the Animal Behaviour Consultants of Southern Africa© (ABC of SA).

The accreditation requirements of the ABC of SA © follow a similar format to those used by international behavioural associations and organisations, of which the ABC of SA © is recognised. The accreditation process is lengthy –this is not meant to serve as a barrier to entry but is to ensure the quality of the accreditations issued as detailed in the ABC of SA © constitution. Please see detailed flowchart on the next page regarding the accreditation process.

A practical working knowledge of various up to date science-based behaviour modification methodologies 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.

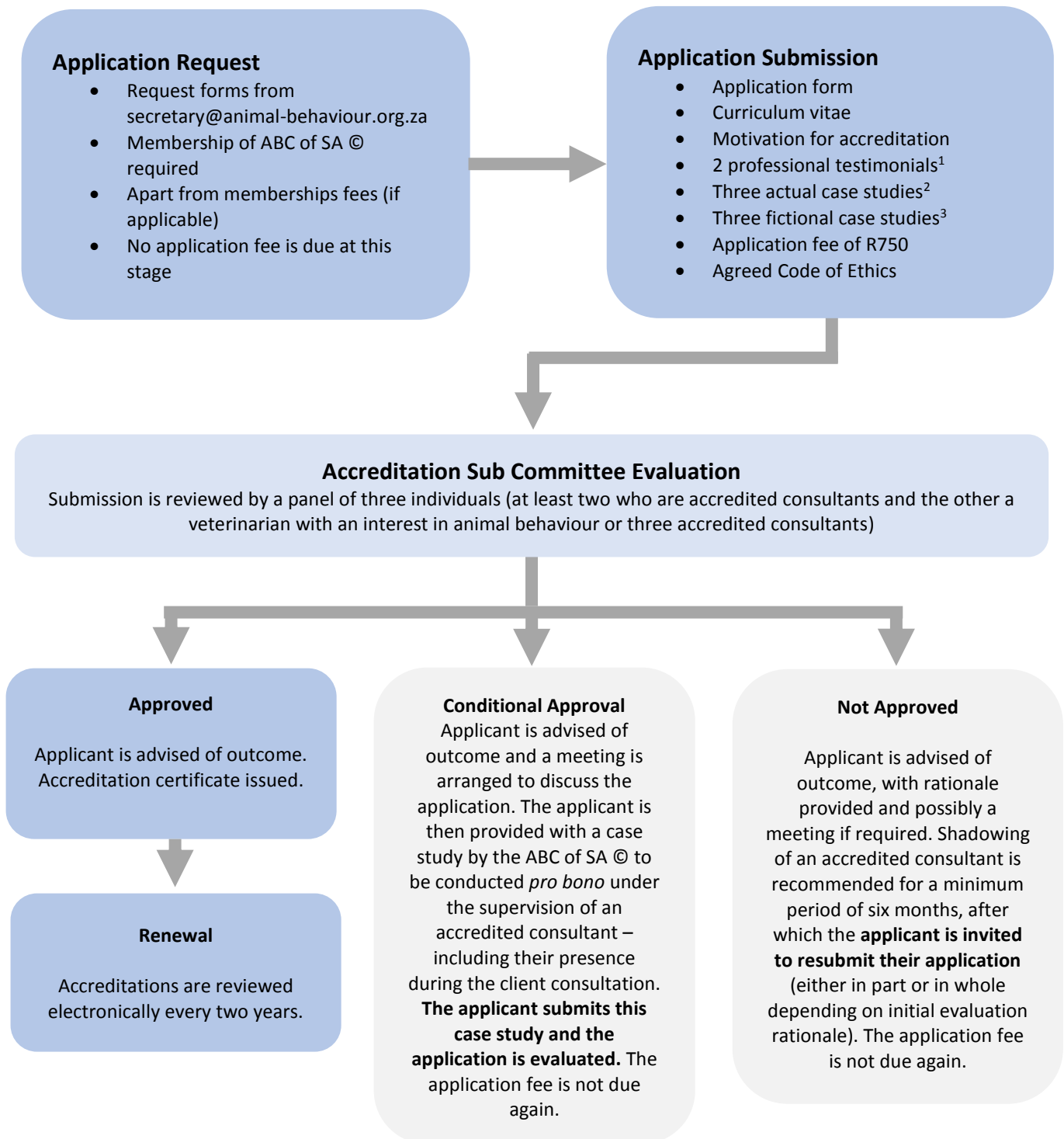
Accredited consultants must possess in depth knowledge, and a wide range of contemporary behaviour modification tools at their disposal, and a willingness to adapt methods and tools to each individual case where necessary.

Notes:

- The term “animal behaviour consultant” is legally owned by the ABC of SA © and as such the title can only be bestowed upon applicants duly accredited by the organisation in South Africa.
- 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 title “Senior Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant” is awarded on merit by the Accreditation Committee, when deemed appropriate.

ABC OF SA © ACCREDITATION PROCESS 2019

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.



Notes

¹ Testimonials are a written account from a professional in the field as to the applicant's character and abilities. Ideally both should be from veterinarians, but one testimonial can be from a trainer or behaviourist in good standing.

² Actual case studies. These should include background history, analysis of behaviour problem, detailed behaviour modification programme and follow-up. Please provide client contact details.

³ Fictional case studies. Information relating to the same behaviour problem, relevant to the application species, is provided to the applicant after initial application is made. The human aspect of the behaviour problem is provided as three different scenarios – the purpose of this requirement is to evaluate the applicant's ability to modify their management and delivery of information to the specific individual.



Checklist

Item #	Description	✓	Item #	Description	✓
1	Application form		2	Curriculum vitae	
3	Motivation for accreditation		4	Two professional testimonials	
5	Three actual case studies		6	Three fictional case studies (To be supplied to applicant after initial application is received)	
7	Application fee of R750		8	ABC of SA © Code of Ethics	

1. Application Form

Full Names:	
Physical Address:	
Identity Number:	Office Telephone:
Cellular Telephone:	Email:
Highest Educational Qualifications:	
Brief Employment History:	
Hobbies and Interests:	
Any other information you may deem to be of interest or relevant to your application...	
Membership or involvement in any animal-related organisations...	
I, _____, hereby apply for Accreditation as an Accredited Animal Behaviour Consultant in the field of _____ (one species only) _____ behaviour. I understand that this application is voluntary, and I may be asked to appear in front of a committee of accredited consultants and I understand that accreditation is not guaranteed.	
Signature:	Date:

2. Curriculum Vitae

Please include all education achievements with attached copies of certificates, diplomas etc. Evidence of attendance at animal-related courses, seminars etc can be included.

3. 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 (300-500 words).

4. Testimonials

Submit two references from two independent veterinarians (or one trainer or behaviourist in good standing) who have knowledge of your skills and have 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 practice.

5. 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 report (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

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

6. Three Fictional Case Studies

Counselling and people communication skills are an integral part of solving behaviour problems. A fictional behaviour problem in the relevant species in three different environmental contexts will be supplied to the applicant. Applicants will be required to submit a written description of how they would deal with each of these clients. This part of the accreditation process tests the applicant's ability to tailor and adapt information delivery according to the client's personality type and/or emotional state (250-500 words per scenario).

7. Application Fee

Submission of the required documents must include a non-refundable fee of R750.00 to cover administration costs. Banking details: ABC of SA ©, Standard Bank, Fourways Crossing, Account Number: 426691679.

8. Code of Ethics

The Professional Agreement and the Code of Ethics below must be agreed to, and one copy of each signed and returned to the Secretary of the ABC of SA © for our records. See page 6 of this document.

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



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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.

I, _____, hereby apply for Accreditation as an 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: _____