

Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors

Promoting the Best in Pet Behaviour

ABTC
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR & TRAINING COUNCIL
Member Organisation



News Autumn/Winter 2017/18

Founded in 1989, the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors is an international network of experienced and qualified clinical animal behaviourists who work on referral from veterinary surgeons to treat behaviour problems in dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, horses and other pets.

Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC)

The Animal Behaviour and Training Council is the regulatory body that represents animal trainers and animal behaviour therapists to both the public and to legislative bodies. It is the only animal welfare charity that is primarily concerned with protecting the psychological welfare of animals undergoing training and behaviour activities. It sets and maintains the standards of knowledge and practical skills needed to be an animal trainer, training instructor or animal behaviour therapist, and it maintains the national registers of appropriately qualified animal trainers and animal behaviourists.

ABTC
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR & TRAINING COUNCIL

APBC Full Members are listed as Clinical Animal Behaviourists by the Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC).

Animal Welfare Network Wales

As part of our involvement in the AWWN we'll be participating in a new initiative: Animals, Land and You, behaving responsibly in the countryside. Meet the AWWN team at the RWAS Winter Fair, Builth Wells, 27th & 28th November 2017. FUW Pavilion.

Keep Calm and Carry On!

When is excitement too much excitement? When your pet is suffering from distress and over the long term, chronic stress, and either can't muster any excitement, or you are struggling to peel them off the ceiling because their excitement is so bad they can't calm down afterwards. There's no doubt, bad stress makes pets prone to lots of fearful and/or aggressive behaviours. Here's where our commitment to our members' CPD comes in.

Our 2017 conference provided lots of updates in many areas, including: how to structure your dog's play, exercise and training regimes for fun, increased control, and ability to chill out after; about how tracking, the ultimate in natural canine activity is both satisfying and calmative, even allowing for reintroduction to normal social behaviour in dogs who have become so scared or frustrated by other dogs they can't interact normally; and how bad stress has negative impacts on our pets and us, and the things clinical animal behaviourists can do to make things easier for many pet owners.



Find your nearest APBC members: www.apbc.org.uk or 01269 831144 (leave a message) We will work with you and your veterinary practice, ensuring you and your pet receive the best behaviour advice possible. In doing so we will also do our best to all aspects of daily life for you and your pet are incorporated in our advice and recommendations in improving any behaviour problems.

Behaviour Tips: Fireworks!

Dogs

Walk before dusk, it helps relaxation and provides a toilet stop before the fireworks start.

A microchip and collar with your details will help reunite you and your dog in case of panic and escape.

Feeding your dog mid to late afternoon may help them relax.

Secure your dog safely inside at dusk, and make sure someone they trust is with them when fireworks are expected.

Provide a safe place for your dog to hide, if it's safe allow your dog to use the place they are most comfortable – this may be with you or it could be under a bed!

Help guide this choice well before fireworks begin by providing a safe "den"; a dog crate / box covered on three sides and with blankets for them to dig into. Encourage your dog to use it; make it positive with some treats.

Drawing the curtains can prevent flashing lights startling your dog.

Music, TV and even your washing machine can help to minimise firework noise.

If your dog has never reacted to noises before, act like there is nothing to worry about and use a good chew, treat toy and games to help keep the experience positive.

It's OK to comfort frightened dogs.

Contrary to what you will often hear it is not possible to reinforce an emotion such as fear by petting your dog, but punishment will.

Cats

Ensure your cat is safely indoors before dusk and that all windows, doors and cat flaps are secure.

Even if your cat does not usually use a litter tray make sure that one is available at this time of year.

Close the curtains to minimise flashes which could frighten your cat.

Putting on music and turning up the volume on the television can help to mask the sound of fireworks.

If your cat seems quite relaxed, try playing a game and offering favoured treats to help form positive associations.

Make sure your cat has suitable safe places to hide; cats often choose to hide in a dark cupboard or under a bed so make sure these places are accessible. You can also offer a selection of boxes in various locations. Once a cat has safely hidden, leave them be.

If your pet was to panic and escape during the fireworks season a Microchip can help to ensure that you are reunited.

Small Pets

Consider bringing pets inside if possible or putting hutches into a shed or garage.

If your pet lives outside, ensure that their cage or aviary is safe / secure and soundproof it as best you can; tarpaulin and old duvets are useful.

Offer extra bedding for small mammals to burrow into and hide; upside down boxes stuffed with hay are often welcomed.