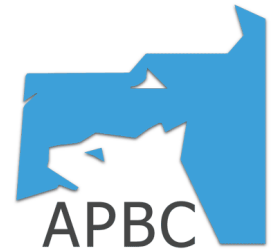


# Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors

Promoting the Best in Pet Behaviour



APBC Veterinary Newsletter – May 2011

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## APBC New Member Announcement

*We are delighted to welcome two new members to the APBC.*

**Dr Rachel Casey BVMS PhD  
DipECVBM-CAip(AS)CABC CCAB  
MRCVS of Bristol Veterinary  
School.**



Rachel is European Specialist in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine (Companion Animals), Senior Lecturer in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare/Cats Protection Senior Lecturer in Feline Behaviour and Welfare.

Rachel is a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Behavioural Medicine (Companion Animals), a RCVS recognised specialist in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine and certified as a Clinical Animal Behaviourist with the

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB).

Having done her doctorate on feline behaviour, she has a particular clinical interest in cats, but is also interested in the effects of physiological changes and pathological disease on the development of behaviour; individual differences in the development of fearful or anxious states; compulsive behaviours, and the rational use of psychopharmacological agents in all species.

She also leads a programme of clinical research and teaches clinical behaviour on the BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare and BVSc degree.

**Prof Daniel Mills BVSc PhD ILTM  
CBiol MIBiol MRCVS from the  
University of Lincoln.**



Daniel is Professor of Veterinary Behavioural Medicine and RCVS Recognised Specialist in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine Animal Behaviour, Cognition & Welfare.

Professor Daniel Mills, became the country's first specialist in veterinary behavioural medicine, to be recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is now the country's first professor of the discipline.

His new position at the university is in recognition of his contributions to the profession, which span over 10 years.

Professor Mills was one of the founders of the biennial international meetings which have assisted in shaping the profession and has written extensive publications on a range of animals and exotic species.

Among his recognised practical achievements he has developed the Lincoln stable mirror to assist horses with isolation problems and successfully used animal

pheromones to control badly behaved pets.

Professor Mills combines both his behavioural and clinical knowledge to offer a referral clinic for animals with behaviour problems, which is open to student attendance throughout their period of study at the university. He also provides

consultancy to a range of organisations in the animal care and science industries and co-ordinates independent trials of potential new products in addition to developing his own initiatives which focus on improving behaviour without compromising welfare.

He lectures internationally on companion animal behavioural medicine, is principal author of the text *Equine Behaviour, Principles and Practice* and is co-editor of the *BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine*.

## Notes from the APBC conference

Vicky Halls



*Adopting a cat from rescue*

### Choosing a kitten:

'Pet professionals' should give advice to prospective kitten owners before, during and after acquisition, including:

- Choice of kitten to suit lifestyle/environment
- Settling in period
- Introduction to existing pets
- Any problems that may arise
- How many cats do you breed from and how many do you have in your establishment?

### Questions to ask a breeder:

- Is it possible to see the kittens with the mother?
- Are your breeding queens kept in the home or in pens?
- Can you tell me how you socialise your kittens?

- Are your kittens litter trained and, if so, to what litter substrate?
- Is there any history of any behavioural problem in your breeding stock or past kittens?
- Is there any history of inheritable disease in your kittens?
- Do you provide support to new owners after they have taken your kittens?
- At what age do you home your kittens?

First aid advice for cat behaviour problems, specifically focusing on urine spraying and Feline Idiopathic Cystitis (iFLUTD)  
Of all cases seen in 2008:

*House soiling: 38%*

*Urine spraying: 23%*

### Urine spraying

- Difficult to resolve as normal behaviour
- Many stressors outside the influence of the owner
- May manage the behaviour and reduce or contain incidence to the satisfaction of the owner

### Idiopathic FLUTD

- Accounts for > 50% of cases in cats under 10 years
- Accounts for ~5% of cases in cats > 10 years

Identifying and eliminating specific stressors reduces and in most cases successfully manages FIC. Increased fluid intake is also an important part of managing the condition, optimum specific gravity for sufferers ~ 1.035. Attractive litter facilities indoors are also essential to manage the condition effectively.

There is no substitute for a comprehensive behavioural assessment in the home but good generic "first aid" advice has a positive impact.



*Stress management by blocking view outside*

**Increasing fluid intake:**

- Choose a bowl that suits the particular preference of the individual cat
- Have several water bowls so that the cat does not need to go far to find one
- Choose an appropriate location for water bowls
  - Away from the food bowl
  - Avoid double bowls
  - In a quiet location
- Consider running water sources as some cats like to drink from moving water
- Consider experimenting with different types of water – e.g. tap, rainwater, mineral water

- Change to wet diet
- Add water to dry kibble
- Other liquids: spring water from tinned tuna, cat milk, chicken stock.

**Indoor litter facilities:**

- Use fine clumping litter (clay/mineral based) to a depth of ~3cm
- Choose large litter trays (1 per cat + 1 extra)
- Scoop twice a day, clean once a week



*Ensure sufficient resources in multi-cat households when attempting to manage and reduce stress*

## CPD opportunities and events in 2011

### MAY

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13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 - South Hill Park,  
Bracknell, Berkshire

**Make your Practice  
Behaviourally Aware CPD**

**Series: V1. "My dog is  
aggressive - what should I do?"**

Speaker: Dr Rachel Casey  
Cost: £80 for single  
booking. £70 for multiple  
booking.

### JUNE

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10<sup>th</sup> June 2011 - Mere Golf and  
Country Club, Cheshire (close to  
M6)

**Make Your Practice  
Behaviourally Aware CPD  
Series: V2. General 'house  
problems' with dogs and cats  
(part one)**

Speaker: Claire Hargrave  
Cost: £80 for single  
booking. £70 for multiple  
booking.

### JULY

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8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 - Henley Golf and  
Country Club, Henley in Arden,  
Warks

**Make Your Practice  
Behaviourally Aware CPD  
Series: V3. Breeds and their  
needs**

Speaker: Clare Wilson  
Cost: £80 for single  
booking. £70 for multiple  
booking.

### SEPTEMBER

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9 September 2011 - Henley Golf  
and Country Club, Henley in  
Arden, Warks

**Make Your Practice  
Behaviourally Aware CPD  
Series: V4. Best Practice  
opportunities for practices  
regarding puppies**

Speaker: Clare Wilson  
Cost: £80 for single  
booking. £70 for multiple  
booking.

### OCTOBER

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21 October 2011 - South Hill  
Park, Bracknell, Berks

**Make Your Practice  
Behaviourally Aware CPD  
Series: V5. Common behavioural  
problems with small furries**

Speaker: Dr Anne McBride  
Cost: £80 for single  
booking. £70 for multiple  
booking.

### NOVEMBER

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11 November 2011 - Mere Golf  
and Country Club, Cheshire  
(near M6)

**Make Your Practice  
Behaviourally Aware CPD  
Series: V6. General 'house  
problems' with dogs (part two)**

Speaker: Kendal Shepherd  
Cost: £80 for single  
booking. £70 for multiple  
booking

*Places are limited at CPD  
events. For booking and  
further information  
please visit:  
[apbc.org.uk/events](http://apbc.org.uk/events)*

### ISAZ 2011 Human-Animal Interaction Conference

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Abstract deadline 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011  
Additional information available  
at: [www.isaz.net](http://www.isaz.net)



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25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**Animal Behaviour Society &  
International Ethological  
Conference, Indiana University,  
Bloomington, IN**  
[animalbehavioursociety.org](http://animalbehavioursociety.org)

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30<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**International Society for  
Applied Ethology (ISAE) Hyatt  
Indianapolis, IN**  
[www.applied-ethology.org](http://www.applied-ethology.org)

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