**APBC APEL Q&A October 2021**

**Anne McBride Jane Williams**

**Basic Principles:**

**The ABTC standards for Animal Behaviour Technician (ABT) and Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CAB) have two parts:**

1. **Knowledge and Understanding – the underlying basis of being a professional practitioner. One needs to know and understand, before one can apply that knowledge effectively and appropriately in practice. The learning which any individual undertakes in order to be able to demonstrate the Knowledge and Understanding will be unique to that person. There are different ways of gaining all of the Knowledge and Understanding set out as standard statements for the ABT or CAB role:**
2. **By the successful completion and assessment of an ABTC recognised course** [**Recognised Courses – ABTC**](https://abtc.org.uk/practitioners-info/careers/)
3. **Through a variety of learning experiences which collectively cover all of the Knowledge and Understanding in the role standards, through a process called APEL**
4. **Performance Criteria – the skills, experience and competences needed to carry out the role. One needs to be apply the Knowledge and Understanding to practical work situations to carry out the role, effectively and professionally. This process is not dealt with here.**

**In order to demonstrate that one has the Knowledge and Understanding for a role, without completing an ABTC recognised course, as stated in B above, the APEL – Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning – process is used. We are looking here at the APEL process as set out by ABTC.**

There is a huge variety of learning experiences which may contribute to the APEL process, which may take place over several years and involve many different activities.

The activities themselves are not defined in any way as suitable, or not, through the APEL process. The type of provider, whether self-taught, or gained through work experience, or as part of an assessed course is not important. The levels of the learning programmes may not be known and are also not necessarily relevant.

**What is crucial, is what the individual has taken from their learning experiences, and the level of Knowledge and Understanding which has been gained by them.** Collectively their learning must allow an individual to demonstrate their Knowledge and Understanding for the whole role as set out in the ABTC standards.

**Types of evidence which could be used to meet Knowledge and Understanding through APEL, for non-recognised courses:**

1. Module descriptors and related certificates showing you have completed relevant formal assessed learning.
2. Descriptors and related certificates showing you have attended non-assessed courses or events. For example, these may be workplace-based training, informal courses, webinars.
3. Self-directed learning, which may include reading you have done, leaflets or articles you have written, volunteer activities, life experiences, self-instruction, family responsibilities and hobbies.
4. Evidence of experience of the role, either through observation or participation in aspects of the role

**How is APEL evidence assessed?**

The ABTC mapping document is used to identify how each of the K&U statements has been met. Some courses or experiences, which are large in scale and completed over many hours, may well be mapped to cover a number of the K&U statements. Smaller activities and learning experiences may be more focused and only address a few, or even one, of the K&U statements.

**The mapping documents show the sections of the K&U for each of the roles:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **K&U Sections for ABT** | **K&U Sections for CAB** |
| **Animal Behaviour** | **Animal Behaviour** |
| **Animal Health and Welfare** | **Animal Health and Welfare** |
| **Animal Learning and Training** | **Animal Learning and Training** |
| **The Interaction Between Health and Behaviour** | **The Interaction Between Health and Behaviour** |
| **Clinical Procedures** | **Clinical procedures** |
|  | **Law and Ethics** |
|  | **Critical analysis and research** |

**Below are Example Applicants and the evidence they may provide. Please note the principles shown in these examples apply to both ABT and CAB:**

**Example 1 – A N Other who has completed an ABTC recognised course and wants to apply for ABT, as a rescue centre employee, and who works mainly with cats –**

* **provides the completed certificates for:**

**Advanced Diploma Applied Animal Behaviour level 5 (Feline) [DL] – Compass Education Ltd**[**click here for link**](https://www.compass-education.co.uk/Advanced-Diploma-in-Feline-Behaviour-Management-p/csc-adcfm.htm)

**No further evidence is required**

**Example 2 – Bob T Builder who has completed part of an ABTC recognised course and wants to apply for CAB working with dogs –**

* **provides the certificates for the modules completed for:**

**BSc (Hons) Animal Science (Pet Behaviour and Welfare) [MP] – Writtle University College**[**click here for link**](https://writtle.ac.uk/BSc-(Hons)-Animal-Science-(Pet-Behaviour-and-Welfare))

**which cover Animal Behaviour, Animal Health and Welfare, Animal Learning and Training, Behavioural Consequences of Medical Disorders, Critical Analysis and Research**

**Applies for APEL of sections covering Interaction Between Health and Behaviour, Clinical procedures, Law and Ethics**

* **provides the ABTC mapping document for Interaction Between Health and Behaviour, Clinical procedures, Law and Ethics**
* **provides reflective logs for Interaction Between Health and Behaviour, Clinical procedures, Law and Ethics**

**Example 3 – Lara Croft who has completed all their learning through, workplace-based training; informal courses; non-assessed courses, webinars, conferences; participation in aspects of the role over 8 years and is applying for APEL for the CAB role working with dogs –**

* **provides the ABTC mapping document for all sections demonstrating understanding and knowledge for CAB through a range of learning activities**
* **provides reflective logs for all sections demonstrating understanding and knowledge for CAB through a range of learning activities – at the required level**

**Examples of completed Mapping Document for ABT and corresponding completed Reflective Logs**