

Fellowship of Animal Behaviour Clinicians



Practising Student Members FAQ

Usually, Student Members are enrolled in an academic course. They include anyone working towards independent accreditation who do not yet fulfil one of the criteria listed below. Once they have achieved any of these criteria, then they are eligible for Candidate Membership:

- Residency of one of the [international veterinary behaviour colleges](#) who act as independent accreditors for some of our Certificated Members;
- [CCAB Pre-certification](#);
- Successful completion of an [ASAB validated course](#) or an [ABTC recognised CAB course](#);
- Successful application of the [ABTC APEL assessment](#);
- [CAB registration of the ABTC](#) through an alternative pathway.

Any Student Members who are clinically practising outside of their contracted employment are required to do so in all behaviour cases under the direct supervision of a registered CAB or another suitably qualified and competent professional. FAB Clinicians expect Student Members to engage with opportunities provided by FAB Clinicians.

Please see the [general practising guidance for Candidate and Student Members here](#).

1. For a mentor, what counts as a registered CAB?

One of the following:

- FABC Certificated Member
- ABTC CAB or VB
- ASAB CCAB
- RCVS Behaviour Specialist or Advanced Practitioner
- VB college diplomate/fellow

2. For a mentor, apart from the above list what counts as 'another suitably qualified and competent professional'?

Student members should not be practising independently outside of their contracted employment. We are guided by ABTC, who created a policy for practitioners employed by charities in January 2021. See the key paragraph quoted below:

"It is... acceptable that some hands-on staff dealing with training and behaviour issues in charity AM and SM [Advisory/Supporting Member] organisations are not ABTC Registered Practitioners. However, ABTC considers that it is critical to providing good supervision that such staff have access to a supervisor who is either a Registered Practitioner or a person who has acquired the knowledge and understanding necessary to become registered. That supervision may be remote from the site where the training or behaviour modification is taking place but must be real in nature rather than notional. It is therefore expected that the supervisor will either be employed by the ABTC Member or have a written contract with the Member to provide supervision and advice when appropriate. Where the AM or SM is not a registered charity organisation the same parameters do not apply. We therefore consider that any training or behaviour modification undertaken by such organisations must be delivered by a Registered Practitioner."

3. What counts as practising in behaviour? For example, are Student Members allowed in their own business to do any animal training or provide preventative first aid advice?

If conducting ATI/ABT type work, then we recommend Student Members seek training and support from ATI/ABT practitioner organisations and their registered members where available for the species they intend to work with. Otherwise, Certificated Members can help to some extent Student and Candidate Members realise the limits of their competence in CAB and ATI/ABT activities. See here:

<https://abtc.org.uk/practitioner-organisations/>

At the very least, Student Members must have acquired the necessary FHEQ Level 4 or 5 academic qualifications for ATI or ABT work respectively before starting practice in these areas, as well as have some training in the species they intend to work with. Note Student Members should not start practising in CAB activities unless directly supervised by a registered CAB, or they should wait until they become eligible for Candidate Membership.

4. What counts as a behaviour case (vs. training etc)?

We define CAB practice as 'formally assessing, diagnosing and/or treating behaviour in non-human animals'. Members should also be aware of the ABTC and ASAB definitions. See below:

<https://abtc.org.uk/owners/types-of-practitioners/>

<https://abtc.org.uk/practitioners-info/>

So currently ABTC states CABs deal with '*all types of undesirable, inappropriate, problematic or dangerous behaviour, including those with a potential link to pathologies that require diagnosis in collaboration with a veterinary surgeon.*'

...whereas ATIs '*involve training the animal to undertake specific tasks, or more general training.*'

We recommend also looking at the behaviour case examples for different species provided by ASAB for CCAB application:

<https://www.asab.org/ccab-application-and-assessment>