



## General Animal Welfare Policy

FAB Clinicians work to inspire and nurture the relationship between people and the animals under their care. We are passionate about ensuring the emotional well-being of animals by promoting the human-animal bond and providing evidence-based behavioural support to the highest welfare and clinical standards.

FAB Clinicians is committed to the ethical treatment of animals. In all our work, we promote and follow up to date evidence-based practices to ensure the animals we have responsibility for, experience good welfare and enjoy a good quality of life.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006, which applies to England and Wales<sup>1</sup>, places a duty of care upon owners and carers, and therefore FAB Clinicians, to ensure they take reasonable steps to meet the welfare needs of their animals to the extent required by good practice. In particular, they must provide for the Five Welfare Needs listed in the Act:

- their need for a suitable environment;
- their need for suitable diet;
- their need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns;
- any need they have to be housed with, or apart from, other animals;
- and their need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

FAB Clinicians also use the five domains model<sup>2</sup> in its approach. The model recognises that to experience good welfare and a good quality of life, the avoidance of harm or minimisation of suffering is not enough; there must also be opportunities to experience positive states by providing good conditions, opportunities and experiences.

All of our members work according to the stringent ethics of our Code of Conduct<sup>3</sup> and supports the Ethical Statements released by ASAB<sup>4</sup>.

FAB Clinicians supports all of the animal welfare policies of the RSPCA<sup>5</sup>. In particular, FAB Clinicians is opposed to the use of any aversive training method, to train and control animals and believes that reward-based methods should be used instead. Aversive training techniques are based on the principle of applying an unpleasant stimulus to stop or prevent unwanted behaviour. These kinds of training techniques can include electric shock collars, anti-bark collars, choke chains, prong collars and physical force or coercion, e.g. hitting or forcing into a position. Such techniques can cause pain or fear and may compromise welfare. They can also worsen or cause other behaviour problems.

***Primarily, our mission is to promote evidence-based behavioural support for animals and their carers, to the highest scientific standards, in an empathetic and compassionate manner.***

<sup>1</sup> There is separate, but similar legislation that covers Scotland (the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006) and also Northern Ireland (the Welfare of Animals Act 2011).

<sup>2</sup> DJ Mellor\* and NJ Beausoleil. Extending the 'Five Domains' model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states. *Animal Welfare* 2015, 24: 241-253

<sup>3</sup> [www.fabclinicians.org/code-of-conduct](http://www.fabclinicians.org/code-of-conduct)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.asab.org/ethics>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/howwework/policies>

# Fellowship of Animal Behaviour Clinicians



## Environmental and Sustainability Policy

FAB Clinicians recognises its sustainability obligations to its members, volunteers, staff, communities and stakeholders – both locally and globally – and to present and succeeding generations.

FAB Clinicians aims to take a leading role in defining best sustainability practice, and will set its own appropriate and demanding standards where none exist.

FAB Clinicians is committed to implementing the requirements of all relevant sustainability legislation and regulations and, where possible, exceeding any relevant minimum requirements.

FAB Clinicians will manage activities over which it has control and which impact upon its various 'environments' in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

FAB Clinicians aims to raise the sustainability awareness of its members, volunteers, staff, communities and stakeholders by promoting the concept of sustainable development and by openly recognising the on-going need to move towards a more sustainable future.

FAB Clinicians will monitor its use of natural resources, both non-renewable and renewable, and maximise the efficiency and effectiveness with which they are used, with a view to minimising environmental impacts.

FAB Clinicians will foster and promote research and education in sustainability – for members, within its communities and via conferences, publications and collaborative work.

FAB Clinicians will provide appropriate sustainability training and development for its members, volunteers and staff, and will encourage them to apply sound sustainability practices at work, at home and within the wider community.

FAB Clinicians is committed to transparency in, and public access, to the formulation and implementation of its Sustainability Policy and objectives. FAB Clinicians will formulate, publish, implement and monitor objectives set out in the overall Policy, and will periodically review their efficiency and promote their continued development.

### **FAB Clinicians aims to support and implement ABTC's Environmental Policy as follows:**

- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible;
- Minimise toxic emissions through the selection and use of efficient means of transport and the source of its power requirement;
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its stakeholders;
- Where appropriate source and promote a product range to minimise the environmental impact of both production and distribution;
- Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to the organisation.

***This Sustainability Policy of FAB Clinicians will be applicable to all its activities and across all its venues.***