

Guild of Dog Trainers

www.godt.org.uk



Dear Guild member,



I'm writing in response to a number of emails I've received in relation to a new organisation that has been set up as the self-styled regulator of animal behaviour and training.

They've made a splash in the press along with unsubstantiated and untrue claims on their website and I thought I'd write to alleviate any concerns, let you have a bit of history and update you of the facts.

The Companion Animal and Welfare Council (CAWC) was tasked in 2008 to set up, maintain and be responsible for a code of practice in relation to dog training as well as to maintain a register of the organisations that were committed to abiding by that code.

A number of groups attended these meetings, including the Guild of Dog Trainers, however a handful of animal behaviour groups kept trying to take over and dictate how they wanted the dog trainers to work; I must highlight that these were *animal behaviourists* trying to tell dog trainers how to do their jobs.

(It must be noted here that qualified animal behaviourists, that is those with degrees in animal behaviour, don't actually have to study dogs as part of their final thesis and only approximately 5% of their course material is in relation to canines. In fact, the people playing a major part in setting up this new organisation studied the mating habits of European Blackbirds and The North American Garter Snake; not a canid between them).

At the May 2009 CAWC meeting The Pet Education, Training and Behaviour Council (PETbc), which was formed last year, was discussed. Sir Colin Spedding (chairman) noted that the PETbc were addressing the same issues that CAWC were and proposed "a solution to CAWC would be to handover to the PETbc". The solution however was declined due to the fact that anyone can sign up to CAWC's code of practice whereas the PETbc is for organisations only and so CAWC continued.

The PETbc, went on to produce the only definitive document on roles within the Dog Training and Behaviour Profession and is being acknowledged by those within the industry as the standards trainers should be using. <http://petbc.org.uk/roles-list.html>.

Following on from a meeting earlier this year, where it was emphatically stated that the people who do the work are the people who should be setting the standards etc., a breakaway group was formed... you guessed it the Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC).

So that's the history, what about the present and the future ?

Well a number of questions really should be getting asked: *Have they, the ABTC, got any authority in the business? **No.** Were they handed the mantle by CAWC to continue with the work started and be guardians for codes of practice and regulating standards? **No.** Do they have any clout with government bodies? **No.** Is the Guild involved with this group? **No.***

The mantle was actually handed over to **The Registration Council for Dog Training and Behaviour Practitioners** as is noted on the CAWC website <http://www.cawc.org.uk/node/81>

What about The Registration Council for Dog Training and Behaviour Practitioners?

*Have they got any authority in the business? **Oh Yes.** Were they handed the mantle by CAWC to continue with the work started and be guardians for codes of practice and regulating standards? **Yes.** Do they have any clout with government bodies? **Yes.** Is the Guild involved with group? **Yes.** We are members of the council and also on the management committee. Is the Kennel Club, the largest dog training and behaviour representative body in Britain on board? **YES.***

The next meeting of The Registration Council for Dog Training and Behaviour Practitioners takes place on the 1st October and no doubt the ABTC will be discussed again – they've already been taken to task once for misleading the public on their website in relation to their self importance and I wouldn't be surprised if it happens again in the near future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With very kindest of regards

Lez

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Education and Development Officer

