



Kindly hosted by the Kennel Club at the KC Building, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LZ

Report of the Open Meeting 11am – 1.30pm

(Please note that Initials are used as abbreviations throughout and a key to them is given at the end)

Chris Bloomfield (Acting Chair and Treasurer) welcomed all.

Attendees: Introductions with Declaration of Interests

1. Chris Bloomfield* (Acting Chair & Treasurer) Co-Director PDTI, and gained KCAI (CD^AOb^A) in 2005. Chris explained that he had attended the CAWC facilitated meetings since the beginning and had been nominated as Treasurer by the late Bill Hardaway, Chris had also held the position of Vice Chair and more recently, taken on the role of acting Chair.
2. Sue Evans* (Registrar) explained that she had become involved with the RCDTBP through attendance of a meeting in October last year and had been appointed Registrar. Sue has a working background of over 30 years in Science with the RVC. Sue designed the initial KCAI programme to be all inclusive, which she is passionate about, and she worked for the Kennel Club for 8 years helping to develop it. Sue is also Co-Director of PDTI and has a UDip CTBM and she holds / has held membership of several other organisations over the years. She became involved with the RCDTBP questioning the current website as looking like a cheap advertising opportunity for people without identification of knowledge or experience.
3. Julie Love* attended the same meeting as Sue and was co-opted on to the RCDTBP Committee. Julie is a member of PDTI, ADTB, APDT and an ex member of UKRCB. She has a UDip CTBM and runs KCGCDS classes and Old English Rescue as a Charity
4. David Cavill* explained that he had become involved as a Consultant to the Committee and was happy to support any organisation working in the interest of Animal Welfare. David is Chairman of PETbc, runs the ACC and attends many industry meeting. Most recently, he was instrumental through PETbc, and with the KC to fight for a specific NOS for Canine Training and Behaviour with Lantra
5. Iris Thompson* works for the KC and was given responsibility for the working with the RCDTBP, but unfortunately the handover from her predecessor, consisted of just 'attend the AGM and take minutes'. Iris was not told of the full remit of the task, so declared that the KC had not fulfilled its 'Secretariat' role since the death of Bill Hardaway in 2013. Iris was previously an Animal Welfare Officer.
6. Lorraine Carney has been with the KC for a year with responsibility for managing the KCAI Scheme
7. Dexter Hockley introduced himself as the 'new boy' as he has recently (since Crufts) started working for the KCGCDS full time after previously been an Animal Welfare Officer for many years.
8. Evelyn Chapman*, previously attended the CAWC meetings to represent the BIPDT, but attends today through her own interest as a Dog Training Instructor. She is a member of GoDT, APDT and the KCAI.
9. Brigitte Barton has an A.Dip.CBM from Compass, she is a member of ISAP and after resigning from the UKRCB / TCBTS is setting up a new organisation – the ICB, which is being launched shortly.
10. Rachel Peake also has the A.Dip.CBM from Compass, she is a member of ISAP and IACE
11. Allyson Tohme is KCAI (WT^A) and member of TCBTS, ITD, and the KC
12. Claire Wilson introduced herself as a Vet with an interest in the standards applied to Dog Trainers when referring her clients to people in her area.
13. Susan Coulstock has studied with the ACC and is a member of ITD and KCAI, about ready to apply for accreditation.
14. Kay Attwood* introduced herself as not having formal qualifications but a great deal of experience. She is a member of ADTB had attended the CAWC meetings and is a member of the RCDTBP. She has concerns over the choices of courses and not knowing which ones are a waste of money. She was pleased to see the RCDTBP holding a meeting again as she is passionate about the registration of all.
15. Zoe Axford introduced herself as an experienced dog trainer, with a realisation of a more recent public expectation that people should be qualified. She has over the years read books and attended many



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seminars, and is now booked the PDTI Instructor Course at the end of the month.

16. Penny Knight works alongside Zoe Axford taking her behaviour referrals.
17. Dave Bain* has the A.Dip.CBM and UCDip CTBM, is a member of TCBTS (prev UKRCB), PDTI and KCAI.
18. Kay Laurence* owner of 'Learning About Dogs', has been running courses for instructors and trainers for many years.
19. JJ Fitzpatrick is the General Secretary of the British Police and Services Canine Association and heard about the meeting through ITD and was interested to know more.

Current Position: Views and Concerns

- a. Sue Evans explained that the Council had been quite dormant over the last couple of years and sadly lacked active commitment, with only four people officially left on the Committee. Sue invited attendees to comment on whether they felt the RCDTBP actually had a role that was worth progressing, or to let it fade.
- b. There was much discussion on what other organisations offer and how they overlap with the RCDTBP. Some organisations appear to be quite 'cliquey' and others are setting such high standards that they become exclusive and elitist. The ABTC were providing a register of individuals who are members of other organisations which have credible standards like ASAB, APBC, TCBTS and APDT. Some felt that the ABTC was too inflexible with the only route in, being through membership of one of their member organisations. PETbc was set up to represent other organisations including CFBA and GoDT and in itself does not provide a register of individuals, unlike ITD which does.
- c. Some highlighted the expectation of high standards, as in any other profession, and some pointed out the hugely significant role of the hobby dog trainers, educating and providing services to the dog owning public, who did not have the time and money to obtain high qualifications and maintain memberships.
- d. It was generally agreed, however that those calling themselves a 'Behaviourist' should be suitably qualified.
- e. On the question over whether there is another organisation that already does what the RCDTBP aims to do, the answer was considered, before concluding that there was not another that was totally 'inclusive' and available to all in good standing. The KCAI was the closest, and has the potential to do so, but it only lists those who gain 'accreditation' and some felt it was not in itself 'independent'.
- f. The question was raised on whether the RCDTBP aims to benefit the public or benefit its members, as this could lead to a conflict of interest. It was agreed that it was to benefit the public, but as discussions continued some factors could be seen as more of a benefit for the members, so a fine line was noted.
- g. It was felt that the registration of individuals needed some credible quality assurance process in place and the job of monitoring could be a massive commitment; however it was considered possible for much to be handled automatically by an effective data-base. It was noted that a complaints procedure is already in place, and on asking others, the number of real complaints seemed minimal. It was considered that Insurance companies again seem to have little interest in the qualifications of individuals due to a relatively small number of claims.
- h. Towards the end, one attendee declared further interests in behaviour qualifications and drew attention to two letters that she knew had been sent to the RCDTBP as a contribution to the meeting, which co-incidentally, Sue Evans was about to acknowledge. One from the ABTC and the other a CAWC statement.
- i. The ABTC letter was read in full and it stated the history of its development since the CAWC report in 2008, and the support it had gained from the industry, the veterinary profession, Lantra and CAWC. It claims that the RCDTBP, in setting up to manage the register, which CAWC were happy for them to do, expanded their



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remit to include i) to regulate companion animal services in the UK and ii) become the organisation to offer unbiased advice on all aspects of dog training and behaviour modification. The letter stated that CAWC considers that i and ii are incorporated into the work of ABTC, which it supports them to do. The ABTC believes that although well motivated, reinstatement of the RCDTBP will add confusion and unnecessary complications, and invites dialogue to ensure the ABTC develops appropriately.

- j. Before reading the CAWC statement out in full, it was stated that at no time during the meeting had the RCDTBP claimed CAWC support for anything other than managing the register, and questioned what managing the register actually meant in practice. The statement also reviewed the history since the report in 2008 and looks at the formation of the RCDTBP and the ABTC. It compares the work of each and considers that the keeping of a register of individuals implying an inferred level of competence could be misinterpreted and abused. It was stated that the RCDTBP website lists only 13 members at this point in time and assumed the role to manage the register. It stated that a CAWC representative attends ABTC meetings but has not attended RCDTBP meetings. No mention was made about the setting up of PETbc nor that membership included the whole membership of the organisations registered with the RCDTBP
- k. David Cavill, prior to the meeting had received copy of the statement and letter, and quite independently followed up with a direct email to Barbara Cooper, CAWC Secretary, which he read out. He questioned CAWC having a presence at ABTC meetings and that he did not know that an independent observer was an option for PETbc meetings, to which he invited a CAWC representative to his next one in September. The CAWC statement had been sent to the RCDTBP by Anne McBride and David questioned her position as the independent 'observer' and CAWC representative, when she was actually involved with ABTC member organisations. David also questioned the ABTC claim to be THE regulatory body representing dog trainers, which he said was absolutely not the case, and questions parts of the statement being in conflict with minutes of previous CAWC and Lantra meetings He awaits a reply.
- l. It was justified that the letters were presented towards the end as they were a little at a tangent to the way the discussion went. CAWC support was not something that came up as being in question, the discussion was more along the lines of inclusivity and whether there was actually a credible role for the RCDTBP that is not being provided by anyone else. Sue did however state that, in light of the statement, she would check that the website (built in 2010, and due for updating) is appropriately worded.

Conclusion

The meeting finished with overwhelming support given for the registration of all dog training and behaviour practitioners. There was considerable support for all the organisations trying to set standards, but it was agreed that there still a need for an inclusive independent umbrella body to pull everyone together. It was agreed that RCDTBP could have a beneficial role and attendees were invited to stay on to a RCDTBP committee meeting after lunch, to consider how we should move forward.

The Open Meeting ended at 1.30 and attendees were thanked for their participation and the Kennel Club for hosting the meeting.

Attendees* above were able to stay on for the afternoon committee meeting, others apologised but wished to be kept informed and involved.



Friday 10th July 2015

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Conclusion of the Committee Meeting

This short meeting discussed ways forward and several ideas were put forward to and by attendees. It was generally agreed that a) quality assurance should be top of the agenda and b) animal welfare and public benefit must be key. The meeting closed agreeing that now was not the time to appoint 'officers' and that the workload was potentially huge. In order to move forward, we agreed to set up and work through an initial 'development' forum, allowing interested parties to join in the discussion of the various issues involved. All were thanked for their contribution and enthusiasm.

List of abbreviations

ACC	Animal Care College
ADTB	Academy of Dog Training and Behaviour
A.Dip.CBM	Advanced Diploma Canine Behaviour Management (Compass)
APBC	Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors
APDT	Association of Pet Dog Trainers
ASAB	Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour
BIPDT	British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers
CAWC	Companion Animal Welfare Council
CFBA	Canine and Feline Behaviour Association
GoDT	Guild of Dog Trainers
IACE	Institute Animal Care Education
ICB	International Canine Behaviourists (due to be launched)
ISAP	International Society for Animal Professionals
ITD	I Train Dogs (register)
KC	Kennel Club
KCAI	Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors in Dog Training and Behaviour
KCAI (WT ^A)	Kennel Club Accredited Instructor (specialist activities in brackets & superscript A for Advanced) WT = Working Trials, CD = Companion Dog, Ob = Obedience
KCGCDS	Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme
LANTRA	From the words Land & Training, Land based & Environmental Industries Sector Awarding Body
NOS	National Occupational Standards as produced by LANTRA
PETbc	Pet Education Training & Behaviour Council
RCDTBP	Registration Council for Dog Training and Behaviour Practitioners
RVC	Royal Veterinary College
PDTI	Pet Dog Training Instructors
TCBTS	The Canine Behaviour and Training Society (previously UKRCB)
UDip CTBM	University Diploma in Canine Training and Behavioural Management (Harper Adams University)
UKRCB	United Kingdom Registry of Canine Behaviorists (2015 name change to TCBTS)