



BVNA
British Veterinary
Nursing Association

ABTC
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR
& TRAINING COUNCIL

BVNA & ABTC Learning Pathway in Behaviour – FAQs

Thank you for your interest in the new Learning Pathway in Behaviour, brought to you by the British Veterinary Nursing Association and the Animal Behaviour and Training Council. We are very excited to launch the course and share more details with you!

In the meantime, here are some FAQs we have received so far. If you have any further questions, please contact Charlotte Bullard (BVNA Education Manager) at charlotte@bvna.co.uk.

- **How can I be kept up to date with Learning Pathway in Behaviour news?**

Please submit your details using the [form available here](#), and you'll be the first to know when the course opens for registrations.

- **When does the Learning Pathway in Behaviour launch?**

The course is due to launch in June 2022; we anticipate that registration will be available from May 2022.

- **How much will the Learning Pathway in Behaviour be?**

We will release the course fees when registrations open during May 2022.

- **How many CPD hours does the Learning Pathway in Behaviour provide?**

The course provides 16 hours of CPD, plus reflective and interactive activities. Time spent on activities and quizzes may depend on your existing confidence in these areas, so you should take as much time as you need to work through these at your own pace. You can still count this additional time towards your CPD.

- **How is the Learning Pathway in Behaviour assessed?**

The course is assessed via multiple choice questions (MCQs); there are no formally assessed written elements. However, there are some reflective activities to encourage you to apply what you have learned to your professional practice. While these are not marked, these are valuable for your own learning; and assist with the reflective process as required by the RCVS and 1CPD platform.

- **What level is the Learning Pathway in Behaviour?**

The course is designed at around an academic Level 3. It is aimed at RVNs who wish to improve or refresh their knowledge of animal behaviour, or who may be interested in embarking upon further, more advanced learning in animal behaviour in the future.

- **Why is the Learning Pathway in Behaviour a benefit to RVNs working in practice?**

The potential impact of developing the understanding and awareness of veterinary nurses of evidence-based approaches to changing animal behaviour is enormous in terms of improved welfare. Veterinary staff are an important source of information for clients, and potential clients, about animal

training and behaviour and it is essential that the information provided should be humane and evidence-based approaches and techniques. Working with owners will help the veterinary team to provide a fear free practice for their patients.

This new Learning Pathway introduces these concepts and is a stepping stone for veterinary nurses who may want to study further to become behaviour professionals, in particular Animal Behaviour Technicians within the suite of ABTC Practitioner roles.

• **What is covered by the Learning Pathway in Behaviour?**

The following modules and learning outcomes are covered by the course:

<p>Module 1 – Explaining Animal Learning</p> <p>Module Leader: Debbie Emmerson PGCE, MSc Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling, ABTC Registered Clinical Animal Behaviourist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiate between key learning theories in relation to behaviour and behaviour change • Understand the advantages of reward-based training • Explain the importance of science-led theories of learning
<p>Module 2 - Physiology, Emotion and Behaviour</p> <p>Module Leader: Dr Sophie White BVetMed MSc MRCVS, ABTC registered Vet Behaviourist & Clinical Animal Behaviourist, ABTC Trustee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the role of a selection of key hormones in behaviour • Understand how stress influences behaviour and physiology • Identify common behavioural indicators of stress • Understand in what ways health and diet may influence behaviour
<p>Module 3 - Avoiding Problem Behaviours</p> <p>Module Leader: Jane Williams B.Sc., M.A., Post. Grad. Dip. & M.Sc. (CABC); ABTC Secretary & Trustee; ABTC-CAB, ABTC-ATI, APBC CAB, APDT ATI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider client/animal interactions as a factor when offering preventative and behavioural first aid advice • Understand the importance of consistency in routines and training • Explain the importance of thorough socialisation
<p>Module 4 - In-Practice Aspects of Animal Behaviour</p> <p>Module Leader: Nicky Goddard RVN, AdipCBM, APDT (01330), ABTC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the need to maintain the highest possible welfare standards for animals visiting the practice through appropriate interactions and environment • Provide up-to-date resources and advice to owners at the practice • Provide preventative and behavioural first-aid advice to owners/handlers, and co-professionals

- **Do you need to be in clinical practice to undertake the Learning Pathway in Behaviour?**

No, we welcome all RVNs with an interest in improving their knowledge of animal behaviour. None of the course activities require you to consider specific cases in practice.

- **How is the Learning Pathway in Behaviour delivered?**

We appreciate that RVNs are busy people! Therefore, the course is delivered in a way which makes it as accessible as possible – online using BVNA's Moodle platform, with access on an on-demand basis. This means you can complete the course at your own pace, provided you complete the course requirements within the course timeframe of 3 months. There are no activities/events/webinars which are required to be attended live/in-person.

- **What will I receive upon completing the course?**

You will be provided with a certificate from BVNA/ABTC which reflects your achievement.

- **Is the course only open to RVNs? Can other veterinary professionals complete it?**

The course and its materials are targeted primarily at RVNs; however, we are happy to accept SVNs, veterinary surgeons, veterinary/animal care assistants, or any other veterinary professional with an interest in animal behaviour. An improved understanding of animal behaviour amongst the whole veterinary team is integral to improving animal welfare in veterinary practice and beyond.

- **Is the Learning Pathway in Behaviour only open to BVNA members?**

The course is open to both BVNA Members and Non-Members – however it should be noted that there is a significant discount both to Members, and those who wish to sign up to BVNA Membership at the same time as enrolling for the course.

- **Can I complete the Learning Pathway in Behaviour if I am not in the UK?**

Absolutely! We welcome the opportunity to engage with veterinary professionals outside the UK.

- **Where can I find more information about future progression onto the ABTC Animal Behaviour Technician role after completing the Learning Pathway in Behaviour?**

The course itself contains information about the variety of animal behaviour roles which exist within the veterinary profession; however, it is designed with the ABTC Level 5 Animal Behaviour Technician role in mind as a potential progression route. ABTC have career information available [via their website](#); their team are very friendly and would be happy to discuss any queries you may have regarding potential future progression onto the ABT role.