

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

Newsletter Summer/Autumn 2024



Photograph courtesy of Stephen Phillips

With Summer behind us and the start of Autumn not so far away, 2024 has so far been a year of many changes. All references to the EU have now been deleted from the Home Office Guidance and new forms and certificates. It has been challenging but trainers have worked well to accommodate these changes and they must be congratulated on their continued hard work to provide courses in a seamless manner. Several updates are listed below for your information and interest:

Latest updates

- All training providers need to ensure that they check the content of their courses for changes derived in the December 2023 Guidance.
- Based on the Home Office requirements, SAB now need to know more information from trainers such as assessment results. The Home Office will assess Accrediting Bodies however the format and frequency is yet unknown.
- As a way of collecting assessment results and course data, a draft course returns template was circulated in August. Some comments on the sheet have been received but if trainers have any further comments, please get in touch.
- All tutors training on a course must send an up-to-date CV to SAB for their files which may be requested by the Home Office when they carry out the audit.
- There will be no increase in certificate fees this year and there will continue to be no accreditation fees.
- A reminder to trainers that when sending through certificates with a gap of more than three months between theory and skills dates, it is helpful to advise the reasons for this when the certificates are sent through. Otherwise, there will be a time delay while queries for the reasons are carried out.
- If trainers have any issues to discuss, a zoom meeting can be arranged which can often be easier than lots of emails.
- The new revised forms have now been sent to trainers and should be used to replace the old versions. Trainers need to destroy any old forms they may have and use the new ones from now on.
- Updated certificate templates have also been sent to trainers, with reference to EU removed. Most trainers are now using these templates with the remainder planning to use them when they run their next course.

- Trainers are advised that only modules fully completed should be written on the certificate.

TAWG Update

TAWG has now completed the questions for Module 1 (Law), Module 2 (Ethics) and is starting on Module 3 (Basic Biology). If you have any questions you would like to submit for rats, mice and fish please send them to Tim. Other species specifics will follow once the basics have been completed.

TAWG would like to thank those trainers who submitted upgrades to the Law questions and these will be added to the database and re-released shortly.

Latest Website Updates

- RSPCA Focus on Severe Suffering UK: Minimising Pain. Newcastle 5th November 2014 <https://focusonseveresuffering.co.uk/events/>
- Anaesthesia and perioperative care of laboratory rodents and rabbit's workshop. Flaire Consultants (Online). 19th to 21st November 2024 <https://researchanimaltraining.com/event/workshop-anaesthesia-and-perioperative-care-of-laboratory-rodents-and-rabbits-nov-24/>
- RSPCA International Meeting: Refinement of Animal Studies with a focus of severe suffering. France. 20th to 21st November 2024 <https://focusonseveresuffering.co.uk/events/>
- Recognition, prevention and alleviation of pain and distress in laboratory animal's workshop. Flaire Consultants (Online). 25th to 28th November 2024 <https://researchanimaltraining.com/event/workshop-assessment-prevention-and-alleviation-of-pain-and-distress-in-laboratory-animals-nov-24/>

Cathy Godfrey: SAB Company Secretary