

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

Newsletter Spring 2024



Photograph taken at Geilston National Trust Gardens, courtesy of Stephen Phillips

Spring is upon us and with that brings many new challenges for 2024 for both trainers and accrediting bodies alike. Courses continue to run for prospective Home Office Licensees and have been accredited, noting that these continue to be of an extremely high standard. The four accrediting bodies continue to meet (SAB, RSB, UAG, IAT) to discuss mutual issues and TAWG has now reformed to reconsider and reform the modular questions.

Please see below the latest updates which you may find useful:

Latest updates

- As part of succession planning, we now have two Vice-Chairs, with Professor Alison Mitchie sharing the role of vice-chair with Tim Betts;
- A £250 donation to Prostate Cancer has been made from SAB as a leaving gift for Tim King at his request;
- A reminder that as a charity SAB has funds which are available to support training projects, attendance at meetings etc. Trainers should submit applications to SAB for consideration. Examples would be financial help to attend meetings, and educational projects but all requests will be considered;

- As a result of the Home Office recent changes and in particular the removal of EU references in the training and continuous professional development document, all SAB forms have now been revised to meet these changes. These will be discussed at the next Trainers meeting in May this year;
- Please could providers ensure that ILOs are embedded in their presentation slides. This would help students to identify areas where further investigation might be useful;
- It would be appreciated if as much notice as possible be given to SAB for course dates to allow sufficient time to find accreditors who may be available to visit courses especially where travel is involved;
- **TAWG met on 28th March and discussed the following:**
 - Following on from concerns regarding the phrase “killer questions” it was decided that the “killer” questions would be renamed “key” questions and TAWG have created three worked examples to replace these. TAWG are to suggest to ABs that they recommend to trainers to use these instead of the killer questions, and that these would form part of a pre-course or early course quiz which would allow trainers to assess if the pre-course material had been read effectively;
 - Module 1 questions have now been reviewed and are now on file. It was agreed that some MCQ style questions could still be used if the quality of the questions were of a good standard. The MCQ questions could be added to make up the marks for the more difficult questions. Recommendation would be that trainers select questions from the question bank and make minor alterations where required. It was agreed that suitable MCQ questions would be added to the module 1 questions and used at the discretion of the trainers as part of a test or during discussions within the course. It was also agreed that for missing word questions there should be a minimum of 3 distractors for each option. The answers file will be sent to the accrediting bodies and will be available for trainers to check as required;
 - Module 2 – (Ethics) Out of the 60 questions received so far, the best would be selected and circulated for discussion;
 - The number of learning outcomes tested was discussed, Module 3 and species-specific questions to be discussed further at the next meeting.
- **Training and Accreditation Stakeholder Group (TASG) Update** - A revised document has been produced by the Home Office (Training and CPD Guidance) considering the comments made by the ABs. However, there are still some outstanding issues and these will be discussed at the next meeting of the TASG. There are several important changes suggested with which the ABs disagree.

Latest Website Updates

- Online [https://Introduction to ethics and the 3Rs and EDA workshops. https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-training](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-training)
- Flaire Consultants – 14th – 16th May 2024. Anaesthesia and perioperative care laboratory rodents and rabbits Online. <https://researchanimaltraining.com/events>
- Flaire Consultants – 4th – 6th June 2024. Recognition, prevention and alleviation of pain and distress in laboratory animals. Online. <https://researchanimaltraining.com/events>
- Animal Welfare Research Network Global Synergy for Animal Welfare: From Research to impact Online. <https://awrn.co.uk/event/global-synergy-for-animal-welfare-from-research-to-impact/>
- Letter from Minister, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, to Professor David Main, Chair of the Animals in Science Committee, on commissioned areas of work. – www.gov.uk/government/publications/animals-in-science-ministerial-commission-2024

Cathy Godfrey: SAB Company Secretary