

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

Newsletter May 2023



It is a great pleasure to share with you the start of a “normal way of life” after all the COVID restrictions and more trainers are returning back to the face-to-face method of teaching. However, some trainers are continuing to provide their training virtually or as blended learning and this has proved to provide a flexible approach. SAB continues to congratulate those who provide training to prospective Home Office Licensees and feel the quality of the courses is excellent. A number of updates are listed below for your information and interest:

Latest updates

- **Species naming**

A reminder to all training providers that when applying for certificates involving “rodents” the actual species must be stated and not just worded as rodents.

- **Fee changes**

In reviewing our finances recently, it has been decided that it is necessary to increase the charge per certificate from £18 to £22. The fee will apply to certificates arising from any training courses held after 1 April 2023. Fees for courses run before 1 April will be charged at the previous rate (£18).

Amendments to Certificates - We have also reviewed the time and effort involved in making changes to Certificates which is in fact more time consuming than issuing a certificate in the first place as any requests have to be matched with our records, the records updated and the modified Certificate issued. Therefore, we have decided to create an Amendment Fee.

1. If any change was as a result of SAB error there will be no fee;
2. For changes requested immediately after issue of a Certificate (within 2 weeks) fees will be waived;
3. Later changes and addition of a species to an existing Certificate (rather than issuing a new Certificate) will be charged at a rate of £11.

This fee will be reviewed after a year.

- **Training and Accreditation Stakeholder Group (TASG) Update**

A meeting took place between the Home Office, representatives from the three accrediting bodies and training providers on 9th May (TASG) to further discuss the draft framework for training and continuous professional development under ASPA. The aim is to publish this document in Parliament in July after the Home Office have reviewed comments from the group.

- **SAB website**

The SAB website is now up and running and we hope you will find the information on there useful. Any comments will be welcome and can be forwarded to the SAB administrator (sab.clerk@gmail.com).

- **AGM**

The Scottish Accreditation Board AGM is to be held in Edinburgh on 1st June 2023.

- **TAWG**

TAWG will be re-established and will include the IAT as part of the group (renamed Training Assessment Working Group) meeting approximately three times a year and reporting to the new Training and Accreditation Stakeholder Group including ASRU. TAWG will consist of two members each from the IAT, RSB, SAB and UAG and representatives from ASRU. The purpose of the group is to agree to standards of assessment in terms of the questions asked and the marking regimes so that standards between organisations are uniform across the UK.

Thanks to the trainers for sending in the Module 1 questions. The general standard of questions was good. There are some learning outcomes not covered and some minor amendments still to be made but, on the whole, a very good start to the exercise. Tim Betts will send out the completed Module 1 questions set in June. Please be aware that ASRU have made minor modifications to the numbering of the learning outcomes and this will be reflected in the completed document.

Latest Website Updates

- Recognition, prevention and alleviation of pain and distress in laboratory animals: Flaire Consultants (online) 19th – 23rd June
<https://researchanimaltraining.com/pain-workshop/>
- Animal Welfare Conference: Recent Advances in Animal welfare Science UFAW (online) 20th- 21st June
<https://www.ufaw.org.uk/ufaw-events/ufaw-online-animal-welfare-conference-2023>
- Research Conference BIAZA Dudley 3rd – 5th July
<https://biaza.org.uk/events/detail/biaza-research-conference>

Cathy Godfrey: SAB Company Secretary