



NATURAL  
*Animal*  
CENTRE

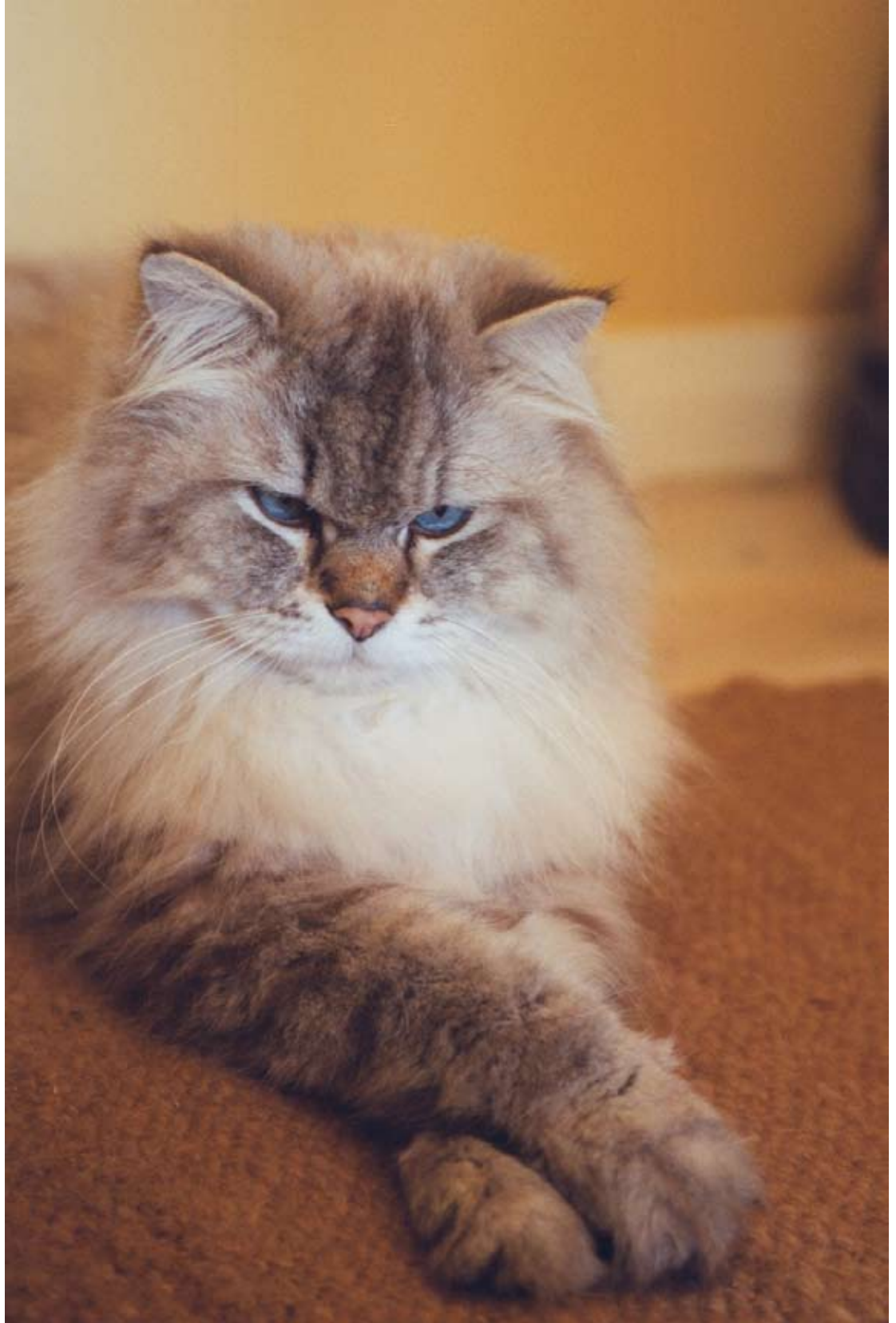
*knowledge*

*action*

*compassion*

# *felinebehaviourqualification*

*stage 1*



The Natural Animal Centre  
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The Natural Animal Centre (NAC) was founded by Ross and Heather Simpson in 1997, the centre has grown from its original base in Sussex, England to two beautiful centres in Wales as well as 2 game reserves abroad.

NAC 1 (our main centre) is home to our courses and the Natural Animal Veterinary Centre, while accomodation and longer term rehabilitation facilities are provided at NAC 2 - a 10 minute drive away.

The NAC has expanded internationally and we have 2 reserves in southern africa and are working on a reserve in the Himalayas, India for the future. for more information on these reserves and the work of the Wild Equid Protection Trust visit [www.W-E-P-T.org](http://www.W-E-P-T.org)

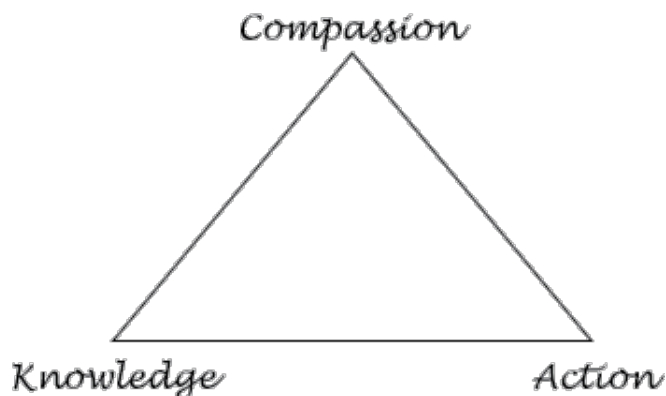


### Compassion through science and ethical action.....

Our mission statement:

*positively influencing the well-being of animals worldwide*

Compassionate understanding of animals is always our main goal and we help people develop this awareness through gaining a sound base of scientific knowledge which creates opportunities for positive choices to be made regarding actions to be taken with their animals



Here at the NAC we act as a role model by showing compassionate alternatives available in management such as our Barn Management System for horses and pigs and the manmade rabbit warren.

### Philosophy

The NAC is a living embodiment of the philosophies we promote. A visit here will reveal dogs and rabbits, horses and pigs which mix peacefully. Positive reinforcement and successfully applied scientific animal behaviour principles means you can achieve your dreams with your animals.

### Preamble

Compared with dogs and horses, cats are our most numerous and popular pet but to many of us, they remain rather mysterious, elusive animals living mainly in a world of their own. Yet recent scientific research shows that cats have a rich and active social life that is contrary to popular reasons given for keeping them as pets: conveniently, we can leave them on their own and they don't need daily exercise like the dog.

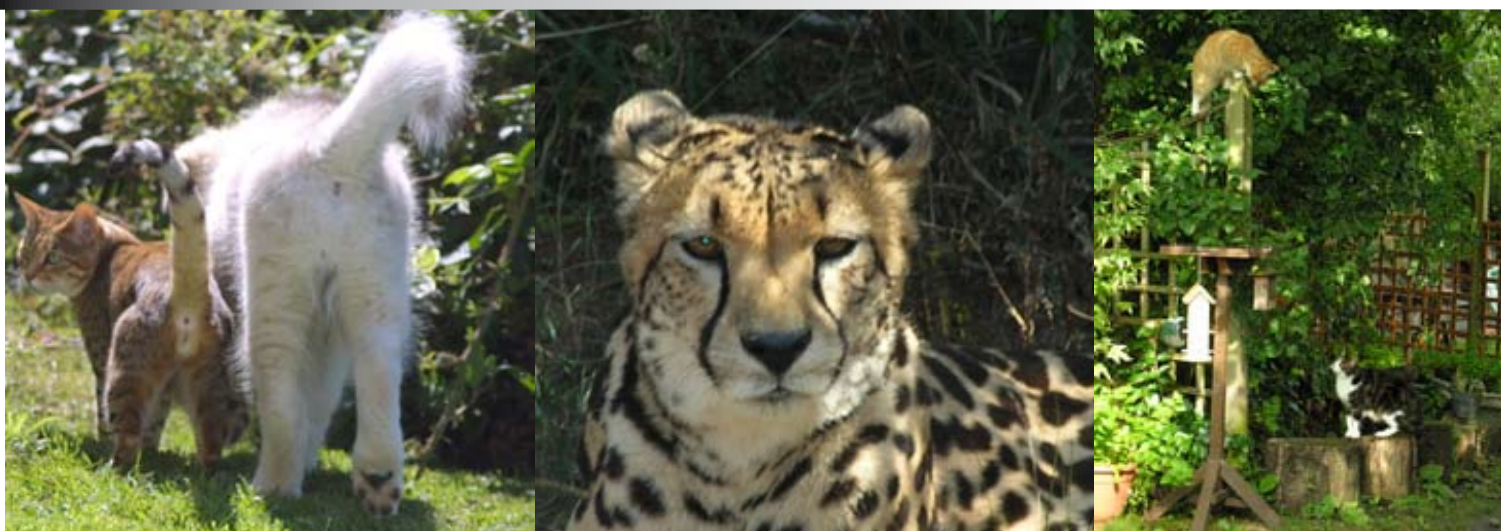
Across the world, cat rescue societies are overwhelmed with unwanted cats and in this country, over 80% of pedigree cats seen for emotional problems at a veterinary practice are marking or spraying indoors. Relatively speaking, pet owners typically show more tolerance towards unwanted behaviours in their dog, often spending both time and money with professional behaviourists in attempts to improve these.

But cats are usually not as fortunate with many cat owners being unaware of even the most basic of feline communication and behavioural signals. As a result, when problems do arise for the cat, they go largely unnoticed by owners. Where behavioural problems are identified, there is a mistaken common view that cats are neither able to respond to training or behaviour modification.

By offering the FBQ, the Natural Animal Centre wishes to raise awareness of cat behaviour amongst cat owners and breeders, as well as those students seeking a career in solving feline behavioural problems.

Currently it is possible to gain degrees in animal behavioural science at a number of universities but few offer practical, hands-on behavioural and training study of cats. Many of them also do not offer places to students whose background is not of an academic nature.

The Natural Animal Centre aims to fill this gap by offering a quality, scientifically and practically based qualification for those seeking to help cats from a behavioural perspective.



### Objectives of the Feline Behaviour Qualification (FBQ)

- to give the cat owners, feline welfare organizations and veterinary surgeons the choice and security in referring behavioural problems to qualified feline behaviourists with a recognizable, trustworthy qualification;
- to provide prospective feline behaviourists with a credible, scientifically-based accreditation which would give them the knowledge and practical experience to offer professional behavioural advice to a paying client;
- to provide on-going Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to maintain the integrity of NAC graduates' feline behavioural knowledge in the market.

### Format of the FBQ

Modules need to be completed in chronological order. Final commitment for the qualification need only be made on registering for Module 9 (which includes Final Assessments). The course is structured so that students who are either unsure or do not wish to follow it all the way to qualification, may still benefit from learning more about cat behaviour.

### Module 1 Aim: Introduction to cat behaviour (Three Days)

- evolution and domestication of cats (including introduction to breeds)
- social structure of domestic cat colonies
- comparative behaviours with wild felines (lions, leopards, cheetahs, tigers and the African and Scottish wild cat)
- as a domestic animal, the cat's unique approach to dominance and submission

### Module 2 Aim: Introduction to learning and communication in cats (Three Days)

- introduction to animal intelligence
- instrumental learning in cats
- sensory, postural and pheromonal signalling in cats
- territorial behaviour in cats

### Module 3 Aim: More learning theory (Three Days)

- classical conditioning in cats
- introduction to play behaviour in cats
- introduction to clicker training cats

### Module 4 Aim: Introduction to physiology of cat behaviour (Three Days)

- introduction to physiology and neurology of behaviour
- introduction to stress in cats (behavioural and physiological indicators)
- immobility and suppressed behaviours in cats
- interactions with dogs

### Module 5 Aim: Introduction to feline welfare and kitten development (Three Days)

- psychogenic disorders in cats (anxieties, obsessive compulsive behaviours, stereotypical behaviours, hyperaesthesia etc)
- developmental behaviour (including socialisation periods) in kittens
- parental behaviours in cats, attachment theory and implications for artificial weaning practices

### Module 6 Aim: Introduction to fear and abnormal behaviours in cats (Three Days)

- fears, anxieties and phobias in cats (including epidemiology and aetiology)
- welfare problems related to stud cats

### Module 7 Aim: Introduction to consulting and professional conduct (Three Days)

- structuring and running a consultation including live practice
- ethics of working with vets
- solutions for behaviour problems – pulling it all together

### Module 8 Aim: Modifying aggression in cats (Three Days)

- physiological model of aggression
- modifying aggression in cats (more advanced cases)

### Module 9a Aim: Formal Assessment (Four Days)

The emphasis in this module is mainly on assessment although the first two days mainly comprises additional teaching. Assessment comprises three parts:

- Formal assessment of consultation with a client
- Written analysis of behaviour presented in the form of a short video
- Written examinations (in 3 parts)

### Module 9b Aim: Prepared Case Studies

*Students submit answers to four written case studies within three months.*

### Module 9c Aim: Field Case Study

*Students will submit the results of a field case study based on advice given to a real client. The feline behaviour problem needs to be a level of seriousness that a progression towards a successful outcome would require approximately three month's work. It is a requirement that the initial consultation with the client is submitted on video for assessment.*

### Schedule

Module 1 12th - 14th March 2010  
Module 3 7th - 9th May 2010  
Module 5 9th - 11th July 2010  
Module 7 10th - 12th Sep 2010  
Module 9 10th - 12th Dec 2010

Module 2 9th - 11th April 2010  
Module 4 11th - 13th May 2010  
Module 6 6th - 8th Aug 2010  
Module 8 5th - 7th Nov 2010



### Pricing

So here are the options on the teaching modules...

We begin with the Gold Package so you get to see all of what's on offer and can then select those elements which suit you personally:

*The Gold Package* ... it doesn't get better than this ...  
all the support & help we can provide.

- All 8 behaviour teaching modules, reading lists up front to stagger your studies
- Positive Life Vision – 3 amazing days of understanding the Law of Attraction & how you can live a life of passion as a behaviourist
- Positive Persuasion – 3 days of intensive learning - persuading clients & consulting without stress.
- Accommodation - Stay at NAC 2 & pay only £40 per module – up to 4 nights, continental breakfast, lounge, dining room & self catering kitchen (limited to 9 rooms)
- Discounts on all NAC products – 10% off everything (excludes courses)

Pay £2,840 now & you'll be saving a massive

**£500**

(pay for assessments when you do them)

Pay before 5th Feb and we'll give you

**a further £100 off**

Or spread your payments - pay £370 per month and you save

**£380 overall**

(pay for assessments when you do them)

Pay before 5th Feb and we'll give you

**a further £100 off**

*Either way take the Gold Package & your savings amount to more than the cost of one of the courses + the 4 days at NAC2 !!*

*The Silver Package*

... if your budgets a little lighter but you still want to make a saving...

- All 8 behaviour teaching modules & all the reading lists up front to stagger your studies
- Accommodation - Stay at NAC 2 & pay only £40 per module – up to 4 nights, continental breakfast, lounge, dining room & self catering kitchen (limited to 9 rooms)
- Discounts on all NAC products – 10% off everything (excludes courses)

Pay £2,500 now & you'll be saving  
**£230**  
 (pay for assessments when you do them)  
 Pay before 5th Feb and we'll give you  
 a further **£100 off**

Or spread your payments - £320 per month and you save  
**£160 = £20 per module**  
 (pay for assessments when you do them)  
 Pay before 5th Feb and we'll give you  
 a further **£100 off**

Or if you simply want to take it module by module you can pay £330 in advance of each module .... no saving, but absolute flexibility for you

How the packages save you money...

	Teching Mods (£2,640)	Positive Life Vision (£300)	Positive Persuasion (300)	Discount on NAC 2	Total Saving - pay up front	Total Saving - pay monthly
<i>Gold package</i>					<b>£500</b>	<b>£220</b>
<i>Silver package</i>					<b>£380</b>	<b>£160</b>

*Book your place now by calling 01267 236434 or see the booking form at the back of this brochure*

### *Time limit for Completion of the FBQ*

*Whilst the Natural Animal Centre seeks to help students spread the expenditure of the cost of the FBQ (See Payment Terms overleaf), there is a time limit of two years in which to complete the FBQ. Most modules will be offered at least once per year so students can plan their study. Typically, a dedicated student could expect to complete the FBQ in approximately 15 months.*

### *Accommodation*

*For the duration of the modules, students may stay at our second centre NAC 2. Enjoy a private african themed room with en-suite bathroom, a communal lounge and kitchen for self catering all set in a beautiful welsh valley at NAC 2.*

### *Continuing Professional Development (CPD)*

*Retention of this qualification requires annual renewal that takes the form of attendance of a CPD course at least once per year at the Natural Animal Centre (either in Wales or in Africa) where graduates of the FBQ will be given the latest up-to-date research on felines and other relevant animals. In this way, the Natural Animal Centre will ensure the integrity and quality of the FBQ remains intact. Currently, CPD is offered twice a year in spring and autumn.*

### *Registration and Supervision*

*Students who graduate with high academic results and who have shown on-going dedication to feline welfare throughout their time of study at the Natural Animal Centre, may be invited to work in the field as an NAC registered feline behaviourist*

*Registered graduates will benefit from having cases referred to them by the NAC but by offering them supervision during the early stages of their behavioural career, the NAC will ensure a high standard of excellence is offered to prospective clients.*

*An annual fee is required to cover the Supervisor's costs. Initially the Supervisor will be Heather Simpson but in time we expect that FBQ graduates of more advanced FBQ stages (see overleaf) would be interested in becoming supervisors as well.*



### *Advanced Qualifications – the Feline Behaviour Qualification (Stages 2, 3 and 4)*

*The Natural Animal Centre aims to be the first educational facility offering a professional qualification in feline behaviour with the emphasis being on teaching students how to offer scientifically-based but practical, hands-on solutions for clients with animals that have behavioural problems.*

*To this end, we offer a serious career path to those wishing to progress their scientific feline behavioural knowledge even further in the form of more advanced study. By building on work undertaken in Stage 1, further stages of the FBQ give students the opportunity to pursue in-depth feline behavioural study over four years, giving graduates a currently unsurpassed professional cat behavioural qualification.*

### *Payment Terms and Required Reading*

*The NAC offers an interest free part payment scheme\* (i.e. pay module by module) payment is required at the preceding module. Note payment by credit and debit card or by bank transfer attract a banking charge payable by the student.*

*The Required Reading list for a module is sent to the student on confirmation of registration. Books are for the account of the student.*

*\*late payments will be subject to a surcharge of 15%.*

### Booking Form

Name.....Telephone.....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 Email.....

#### I would like to book my place on:

Equine Behaviour Qualification  Canine Behaviour Qualification  Feline Behaviour Qualification

#### I would like to sign up on:

*Gold package - pay upfront*  *Gold package - pay monthly*  
 *Silver package - pay upfront*  *Silver package - pay monthly*

#### Up front payments

I enclose a cheque (payable to the Natural Animal Centre)/ please debit my card with £.....

#### Monthly payments

I enclose 8 post dated cheques in line with the schedule below\*\* (payable to the Natural Animal Centre)/Please debit my card with the amounts below on the due date

Module	Due Date	<i>Gold package payment</i>	<i>Silver package payment</i>	NAC 2 accommodation*	
				Package	One off
1	When you book	£370	£320	£40	£50
2	5/3/10	£370	£320	£40	£50
3	5/4/10	£370	£320	£40	£50
4	5/5/10	£370	£320	£40	£50
5	5/6/10	£370	£320	£40	£50
6	5/7/10	£370	£320	£40	£50
7	5/8/10	£370	£320	£40	£50
8	5/9/10	£370	£320	£40	£50

#### Payment Details

I enclose 8 post dated cheques in line with the schedule below\* (payable to the Natural Animal Centre)/Please debit my card with the amounts below on the due date

Name and Address of Card Holder (if different from above).....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Credit card number.....Security code.....  
 Exp date..... Start Date.....

Please accept this as authority to process the above payments against this debit/credit card (a 1.5% banking surcharge is added to all card payments)

Signature..... Date.....

\*Your room at NAC 2 will be available from 4.30pm the night before the mod to 9 am the morning after\*\*Bounced cheques attract a processing fee of £20