



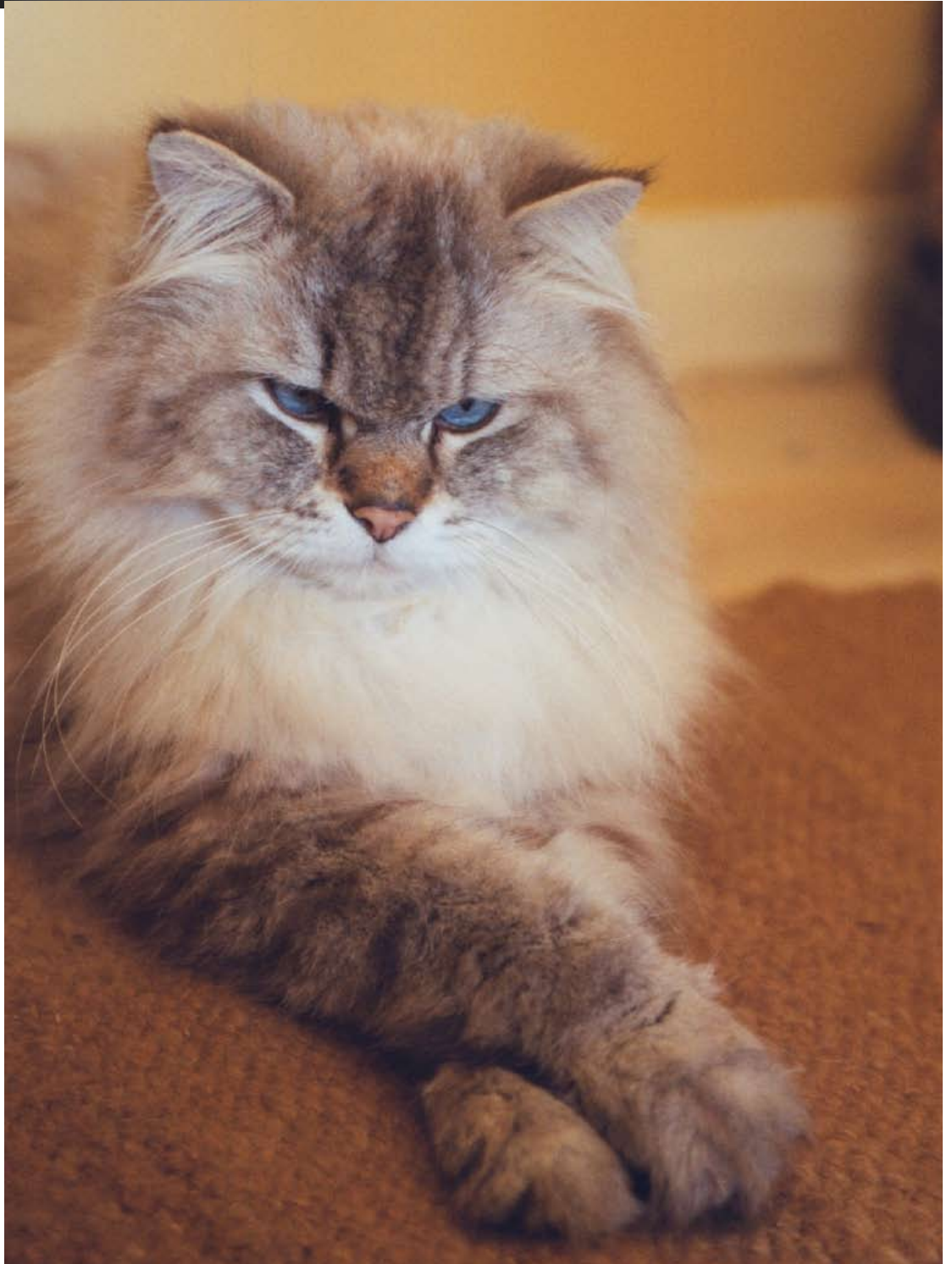
felinebehaviourqualification

stage 1 - accelerated learning

knowledge

action

compassion



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For more information on the
NAC Animal Behaviour Courses go to:

<http://www.naturalanimalcentre.com/animal-behaviour.php>

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 a beautiful centre in Wales as well as 2 game reserves abroad.

Our main centre in Wales (NAC) is where many of the courses are taught and is home to the Natural Animal Veterinary Centre.

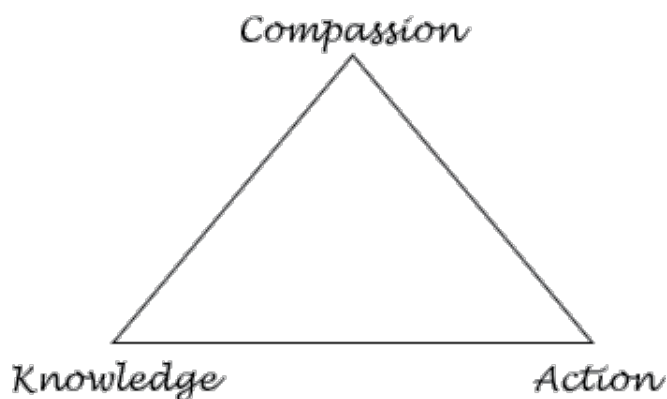
The NAC has expanded internationally and we have 2 reserves in southern africa and are working on a reserve in the Himalayas, India for the future. For more information on these reserves and the work of the Wild Equid Protection Trust visit www.W-E-P-T.org

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.



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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.



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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.*

The complete course comprises 9 modules (20 days of lectures, assessments and practical study) held at the Natural Animal Centre as well as a section of assessments to be undertaken at home. Students are expected to supplement their study at the Natural Animal Centre with Required Reading over the course.

Format of the FBQ

The accelerated learning option allows you to combine modules to reduce your visits to the NAC and complete the FBQ in a reduced time. For the duration of the accelerated learning course we run 4 modules back to back with time off in the middle so you will come and do module 1 - 4 in a visit and module 5 - 8 in another visit. Module 9 including assessments are then completed separately.

Module 1 Aim: Introduction to cat behaviour (Two 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 (Two 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 (Two Days)

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

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

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

Module 8 Aim: Modifying aggression in cats (Two 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.

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.

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.

A fee of £150 per annum 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.

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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

Taking part in the accelerated learning course allows you to benefit from a discounted price, The NAC offers help in spreading the cost of the course over a number of payments and the discounted price is dependant on you meeting those payment dates.

The Required Reading list for the course is sent to the student on registration at their first payment. Books are for the account of the student.

Join us for the NAC Spring School 2012

<i>Mod 1 - 4</i>		<i>21st - 28th Jan</i>
<i>Mod 5 - 8</i>		<i>17th - 24th March</i>
<i>Mod 9</i>		<i>To be agreed</i>

Call & book your place now 01267 236434

