



# ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR COUNSELLOR

The Animal Behaviour Counsellor course is designed to provide comprehensive knowledge and skills in the field of animal behaviour, care, and welfare. The course is structured into seven modules, each focusing on different aspects of animal behaviour and the responsibilities of an animal behaviour counsellor.

## Module 1: Animal Behaviour: Animal Care and Welfare

This module serves as the foundation for the course, introducing students to the principles of animal care and the concepts of animal welfare. Students learn the fundamental ethical considerations and best practices for caring for animals. Understanding the importance of providing proper care lays the groundwork for becoming a proficient animal behaviour counsellor.

## Module 2: Animal Behaviour: Introduction to Animal Behaviour Counsellor

This module provides an overview of the role of an animal behaviour counselor. It delves into the essential skills required for this profession, emphasising the interpersonal and communication skills needed to effectively counsel both animals and their owners. The module also explores the educational and training paths to becoming a counsellor, shedding light on work hours and potential earnings.

## Module 3: Animal Behaviour: Basic Animal Signs and Indicators

Students in this module learn to recognise and interpret signs of animal welfare. This includes understanding behavioural, physical, and physiological indicators that can reveal an animal's well-being or distress. Developing this observational skill set is crucial for an animal behaviour counsellor to assess and address the needs of the animals they work with.

## Module 4: Animal Behaviour: Behaviour and Psychology of Dogs

Focusing specifically on dogs, this module explores normal canine behaviour, communication, and psychology. Students gain insights into the unique traits and characteristics of dogs, enhancing their ability to understand and work with canine clients. This section is vital, as dogs are common companions and frequently seek behavioural counselling.

## Module 5: Animal Behaviour: Behaviour and Psychology of Cats

Similar to the previous module but centred on feline companions, this section covers cat behaviour, communication, and psychology. Understanding the distinct behavioural patterns of cats is essential for an animal behaviour counsellor, as they often encounter cases involving feline behavioural issues.

## Module 6: Animal Behaviour: Behaviour and Psychology of Horses

This module shifts focus to horses, exploring equine behaviour and psychology. As horses have unique behavioural traits and are often involved in various activities, including sports and therapy, understanding their psychology is crucial for effective counselling.

## Module 7: Animal Behaviour: Signs of Animal Welfare

Expanding beyond traditional pets, this module broadens the scope to include birds, ornamental fish, and reptiles. Students learn to recognise signs of welfare in these diverse animals, considering their specific needs and behaviours. This inclusive approach prepares animal behaviour counsellors to work with a variety of species, addressing the welfare concerns of different animals.

In summary, the course covers a broad spectrum of topics, starting with the foundational principles of animal care and welfare. It progresses to specialised modules focusing on the behavioural and psychological aspects of dogs, cats, and horses. The inclusion of diverse species in the final module ensures that animal behaviour counsellors are well-equipped to address the unique needs of various animals. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed not only on theoretical knowledge but also on the practical skills and observational abilities required for success in this rewarding career.

