

## Pet Behaviour Counsellor

### What is it?

Pet Behaviour Counsellors help pet owners understand and manage behavioural problems in animals, such as aggression, anxiety, or destructive behaviour. They work with pets like dogs, cats, and sometimes horses or exotic animals, using observation and training techniques to improve animal welfare and strengthen the bond between pets and their owners.

### Qualifications/Experience Required:

Many professionals hold a degree in **animal behaviour**, **zoology**, **veterinary science**, or **psychology**. Some roles require postgraduate qualifications in clinical animal behaviour. Alternatively, you can start with a **Level 4 Animal Trainer Higher Apprenticeship** and gain experience in kennels, rescue centres, or veterinary practices. Volunteering with animal charities or shelters is a great way to build experience. Membership of professional bodies like the **Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC)** or the **Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC)** is often required.

### Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Patient and calm, especially in stressful situations.
- Passionate about animal welfare.
- Good at problem-solving and observation.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work independently and with sensitivity.

### What the Work Involves:

- Taking referrals from vets or animal welfare organisations.
- Observing animals and discussing behaviour with owners.
- Identifying causes of behavioural issues.
- Creating and adapting behaviour-modification programmes.
- Working in clinics, homes, or veterinary practices.

### Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary:** £15,000
- **Experienced Salary:** Up to £50,000
- **Average UK Salary (2024):** £37,430 (across all jobs)

### Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

This is a growing field as more people seek professional help for their pets. With experience, you could become a **Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CCAB)**, run your own consultancy, or move into **teaching**, **research**, or **writing**.

**Typical weekly hours – 37 to 39 hours per week.**

*Often on a **shift basis**. This may often include **evenings and weekends** to suit clients' availability.*

### Related Opportunities:

- **Animal Trainer**
- **Veterinary Nurse**
- **Zoologist**
- **Dog Groomer**

### Further Information:

- [Careerpilot – Pet Behaviour Counsellor](#)
- [National Careers Service – Pet Behaviour Consultant](#)