AWF Trustee Role Description 2022

Would you like to help the Animal Welfare Foundation find solutions to animal welfare problems? Do you want to empower the veterinary and animal welfare professions to become champions of animal welfare? Do you have relevant skills and experience that you believe would be of benefit to AWF? Then why not apply to become an AWF trustee?

The Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) is the British Veterinary Association (BVA)’s animal welfare charity, with a mission to improve the welfare of animals through scientific research, education, and debate. The charity is currently managed by a board of 10 trustees comprised of vets, a veterinary nurse, and an animal welfare scientist.

The Board have overall legal responsibility for AWF and are responsible for providing strategic direction to achieve its mission, as well as ensuring its financial stability and safeguarding its good name.

AWF is now looking for 4 to 5 new trustees from the veterinary and animal welfare professions, from primary care through to academia and the commercial veterinary sector. Trustees play a very active role in the charity’s work, so this is a wonderful opportunity for a qualified veterinary or animal welfare professional who is keen to use their expertise towards giving animals a better life.

Role Description
In addition to a comprehensive induction, you will receive support and guidance throughout the role both from the AWF staff and the existing Trustee Board. Additional training can be arranged in particular areas of interest and growth.

The role will include:

1. Scrutinising trustee meeting papers and being prepared to offer ideas and suggestions at trustee meetings.
2. Actively advocating and promoting the work of the AWF to improve engagement and financial support for the charity.
3. Understanding and assessing the merit of funding applications made to the charity with reference to the AWF’s aims and mission.
4. Contributing to AWF decision making via a trustee email group.
5. Sitting on one or more of the charity’s sub-committees, which focus on particular areas of AWF’s work such as professional education or research grants.
6. Providing ideas for topics and speakers for AWF’s Discussion Forum and other debates.
7. Contributing to AWF activities such as delivering student talks and attending our annual Discussion Forum.
8. Occasionally representing AWF at external events and meetings.

Person Specification
The skills and experience that AWF are looking to acquire from the current round of trustee recruitment are set out below.

In your application, please explain how you meet one or more of the skills listed below, as well as your experience within one or more of the stated sectors. Note we do not expect you to have all of the skills below, but we hope to represent the breadth of these skills and experience across the Board.
In all trustee recruitment, we look for the following qualities:

- Commitment to the charity’s objectives, aims and values and willingness to devote time to carry out responsibilities.
- Good independent judgement, political understanding, impartiality and the ability to think objectively in the context of the organisation and external environment.
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- Ability to work successfully as part of a team, communicate effectively with others and think creatively.
- Nolan’s seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

**Time Commitment**

**1-2 days a month**

This is a hands on role and trustees are expected to attend three Board meetings a year, as well as AWF’s annual flagship event, the **AWF Discussion Forum**. In addition to this, they are also expected to engage with one or more of AWF’s subcommittees focusing on particular areas of the charity’s activity, such as grant making and professional education.

Furthermore, you may be asked to deliver a student talk; manage a Discussion Forum session (this involves attending virtual meetings with speakers to guide them in the session development and reviewing their presentations); leverage your personal contacts to promote AWF’s work; provide quotes for AWF’s PR and marketing activity.

The term of office is 3 years, after which trustees become eligible for re-election. A maximum of two successive terms of office may be served. The positions are unpaid, but trustees are reimbursed for travel expenses incurred.

**Application**

To apply please send a completed application form and a two-page CV to Erika Singh at enquiries@animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk quoting ‘Trustee Vacancy’ in the subject line by **9am on Monday 15th August 2022**.

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by Friday 9 September and will be invited to attend an interview between 12th and 23rd September 2022.