Ethics and Welfare Advisory Panel

Role description and person specification

Overall purpose

- To ensure that the Ethics and Welfare Advisory Panel (EWAP) fulfils its primary role of advising the Policy Committee (PC) and policy working groups on ethical and welfare issues to consider in the development of policy on all veterinary policy matters, including animal health and welfare, public health, and veterinary professional issues.

- To assist the Association in pursuing its priority issues through developing robust, evidence-led policy positions and consultation responses.

Duties and activities

- Actively contributing to EWAP debates and discussions at meetings (currently via Zoom) and via the online forum for committees.

- Helping to source papers and research and reading papers, research and other information presented to the EWAP in preparation for debates and discussions.

- Actively participating in evidence sessions and discussions with external contributors.

- Attending three EWAP meetings per year (NB these are currently being held via Zoom), in line with the BVA attendance protocol.

- Contributing actively to the work of EWAP outside of the meetings by promoting discussion and exchange of views on the BVA online forum for committees (Glasscubes)

- Serving as a member of policy working groups on an ad hoc basis, attending working group meetings (currently via Zoom), inputting to working group research, evidence sessions and debates, and acting as a link between the working group and the EWAP. Working groups will be time limited and issue focused. EWAP members will be asked to volunteer to join working groups according to areas of interest and expertise.

- Promoting BVA and BVA membership as appropriate.

- Safeguarding and promoting the good name and values of BVA at all times.

Term of office

All members of EWAP shall nominally serve for a term of up to three years. Members will have the option of serving for a second term of up to three years (subject to Nominations and Awards Group (NAG) recommendation and Council approval) but may not serve for three successive terms. Members may seek re-election for a third term following a break in service of at least one year.

Person specification

- MRCVS and BVA membership for veterinary members.
- At least one member of EWAP must be an RVN.
- At least one member of EWAP must be a lay member (non-MRCVS and non-RVN) with an interest and relevant experience in animal/veterinary ethics and/or welfare
- Commitment to promoting and furthering the interests of the veterinary profession, and of BVA.
- Willingness to commit the necessary time and effort to fulfil the specified duties and activities.
In selecting members of EWAP, NAG will be tasked with meeting as many of the following criteria as possible:

Knowledge, skills and experience
All members of EWAP should have demonstrable experience/expertise and/or qualifications in one or more of the AWSEL disciplines:
  • animal welfare science
  • veterinary and animal ethics
  • animal welfare law

Across the membership of EWAP, NAG will be looking for a mix of the following:
  • Animal welfare scientists
  • Accredited animal behaviourists (ABTC, APBC, CCAB)
  • Veterinary ethicists
  • Named veterinary surgeons
  • Individuals with postgraduate qualifications in AWSEL
  • Experience in various veterinary roles (clinical practice, academia, research, policy, industry, charity, public health, wildlife/conservation, etc)

Not all of these are essential for each individual but across the whole committee we require a mix of:
  • Committee experience
  • Policy development skills and experience
  • Strategic thinking
  • Evidence gathering and research
  • Analysis and evaluation
  • Excellent oral communication skills and ability to engage positively in debate and discussion
  • Decision making
  • Team work
  • Problem solving
  • Understanding of the political and cultural climate in which BVA seeks to influence policy makers
  • Understanding of the current veterinary landscape

Other
Across the committee we are looking to ensure a range of expertise, interests, and backgrounds.

Expenses
Membership of EWAP is voluntary and unpaid but members are reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred, in line with BVA’s member expenses policy.

EWAP members receive free membership of BVA for the duration of their term of office.

Declarations of interest and confidentiality
All members of EWAP are required to complete a confidentiality agreement and declarations of interest form at the start of their term, and to notify the secretariat if the declaration needs to be updated.

For more information, please contact BVA Head of Policy Amelia Findon via policy@bva.co.uk

Last updated: May 2021