

Role profile: AWF Chair of Trustees

Purpose of role:

The Chair leads the Board of trustees, ensuring the charity is well-governed, strategically focused, and operating in line with its mission. They create the conditions for effective teamwork, sound decision-making, and strong accountability. The Board has overall legal responsibility for the Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) and is responsible for providing strategic direction to achieve AWF's mission, as well as ensuring its financial stability, good governance and safeguarding its good name.

Key responsibilities:

- Guide the Board on setting the charity's strategic directions and ensure decisions are well informed.
- Make strategic, financial and governance decisions together with the Board.
- Support the Charity Operations Manager to deliver the charity's strategy, provide guidance, conduct regular check-ins and act as a critical friend.
- Plan, chair and facilitate productive trustee meetings that encourage balanced and collective participation.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity with funders, partners and the wider community.
- Lead trustee recruitment, induction and ongoing development.
- Scrutinise trustee meeting papers and attend trustee meetings (in person and virtual).
- Keep updated on the charity's activities and actively advocate for the work of AWF to improve engagement and reach.
- Draw on any business and personal connections and experience to enable the development of supportive partnerships.
- Understand and assess the merit of funding applications made to the charity with reference to AWF's aims and mission.
- Support the chairs of the charity's sub-committees, which focus on particular areas of AWF's work such as professional education or research grants.
- Provide ideas for topics and speakers for AWF's annual Discussion Forum and chairs the event on the day. Provides ideas for topics and speakers for other debates.
- Contribute to AWF activities such as delivering student talks, supporting fundraising and attending the annual Discussion Forum.
- Occasionally represent AWF at external events and meetings.

Knowledge, skills, and expertise:

Essential

- Strong leadership experience and skills.
- A professional background or interest in animal welfare.
- Previous experience as a Trustee or Governor
- Excellent communication; skilled at listening, summarising and facilitating balanced discussions.
- Strategic and focused, able to assess organisational impact and comfortable with long-term planning.
- Can demonstrate sound judgement, good governance and the ability to make decisions based on evidence, values and the charity's best interests.
- Can operate with emotional intelligence, building trust, handling sensitive issues and supporting a collaborative culture.
- Commitment to the charity's objectives, aims and values.
- 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.
- An understanding and interest in animal welfare issues.

Desirable

- Previous experience as a Chair of a Board or in a similar leadership role
- A sound understanding or education and research

Other information:

Attendance at external events, including occasional overnight stays within the UK, is required.