BVA Ethics and Welfare Advisory Panel

Role description and person specification
July 2018

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 both in person and via the email loops.

• 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 (usually in London), in line with the BVA attendance protocol.

• Contributing actively to the work of the EWAP outside of the meetings by promoting discussion and exchange of views on the BVA community (online forum).

• Serving as a member of policy working groups on an ad hoc basis, attending working group meetings, 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, and there will be no more than five working groups operating at any one time. 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 the EWAP shall be subject to approval by the Nominations and Awards Group (NAG) on an annual basis and 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 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.
In order to achieve continuity on an ongoing basis, terms will be staggered at the establishment of the EWAP and members may be asked to serve shorter terms.

**Person specification**

- MRCVS and BVA membership for veterinary members.
- At least one member of the EWAP must be an RVN.
- At least one member of the 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.
- Comfortable with electronic communication.

In selecting members of the 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

Across the committee we are also looking for balance in relation to gender and age.
**Expenses**

Membership of the 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.

Members who carry out more than ten days on behalf of BVA within a year may be entitled to claim a day rate. Further information is available via the secretariat.

**Declarations of interest**

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

**Committee communications**

Much of the EWAP and working group work takes place via closed email loops. Members should ensure that the secretariat has their current active email address. Guidance on using the emails loops is available.

For more information, please contact the BVA policy team on 020 7908 6370 or via policy@bva.co.uk

Last updated: July 2018