



**National Animal
Welfare Trust**

Charity No 1090499

Head Office & Administration

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NAWT Trustee Role Description

About us

Our roots can be traced back to 1958, when the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) established BUAV Dog Rescue. The initiative to establish BUAV Dog Rescue was to stop dogs and puppies being bought at markets as a way of preventing them going to laboratories for vivisection.

In 1971 BUAV members felt that the work of BUAV Animal Aid was departing from its aims, and it was agreed to establish a separate charity to be known as Animal Welfare Trust (AWT). The word 'National' was added in 1996 as part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations to recognise the work of our remote supporter groups.

The majority of NAWT's centres used to be standalone charities, but their founders or Trustees felt that they could give their charity a better future being part of NAWT. We are very proud of this approach as it enables an important community service to continue, and we feel honoured that individuals have entrusted their life's work to us.

Our vision is that every pet will thrive in a loving home. Our mission is to improve the lives of pets by providing rehoming, educational and practical support to animal owners in our communities.

We rehome cats and dogs at all our Centres together with a variety of other animals depending on the facilities available. We support a number of local authorities in helping with stray animals. Our Centres are open to the public to encourage interaction and education, so that people have a better understanding of what it means to take care of an animal. We are developing our range of preventative activities, where we can work with our communities to offer educational and practical support to help pets to stay with their loving families during difficult times.

What difference will you make?

You will be joining an active Board, and your expertise will significantly help the organisation to reach their goals. You will play a pivotal role in shaping the strategic direction and future development of this successful charity who aim to make a real difference to abandoned pets or those at risk of being abandoned.



Key tasks

1. General Trustee duties

- Assist in ensuring that the organisation pursues its objectives as defined in its governing document and legally operates
- Contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Safeguard the good name and values of the organisation
- Represent the organisation at functions and meetings as appropriate
- Take collectively responsible for the actions of the organisation and other trustees
- Ensure the financial stability of the organisation
- Monitor the management of the organisations property and to ensure the proper investment of the organisation's funds
- Assist in the appointment of the Chief Executive and monitor their performance
- Provide feedback on board papers, lead discussions, focus on key issues, provide advice and guidance on new initiatives
- Attend meetings and to read papers in advance of meetings

Person Specification

Essential

- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to duties as a trustee
- Integrity and a commitment to the organisation and its objectives
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties and responsibilities of trusteeship
- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- Willingness to speak your mind
- An ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Excellent interpersonal skills

Desirable

- We are particularly interested to hear from individuals with experience in Veterinary Care / Animal Behaviour or with a Fundraising or I.T. background who can give freely of their time
- Experience of working within the charity, voluntary and public sector