

RCVS KNOWLEDGE
TRUSTEE
CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

MAY 2024



Welcome from our Chair

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee at RCVS Knowledge.

As an independent charity, our mission is to advance the quality of veterinary care for the benefit of animals, the public and society.

It's an exciting time to join us. We have established ourselves as the leading voice and provider of practical tools for Quality Improvement in veterinary care. Our open-access journal *Veterinary Evidence* has a global readership of more than 60,000, with submissions and readership growing year on year. Our Library and Information Service provides essential resources to veterinary teams across the UK and beyond. And, as the charity partner of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), we are proud custodians of the RCVS archives, enriching understanding of the past and enabling the veterinary and wider community to remain guided by the lessons of history.

There are, of course, challenges ahead as we seek to build on our successes to date and further expand our impact. These include a need to diversify our sources of income and to continue to remain forward-thinking and relevant to veterinary professions operating in an increasing challenging and ever-evolving context.

We are looking for three people to join our Board to help steer us through our next exciting period of development. We'd be interested to hear from people with a diverse range of skills and experiences, including people from 'lay' (non-veterinary) as well as veterinary backgrounds. We are specifically looking for trustees who bring experience in one or more of the following: fundraising and charity leadership, commercial and business management, and veterinary nursing.

If you have the skills and experience that we're looking for and share our passion for working with veterinary teams to advance the quality of veterinary care, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Boag".

Amanda Boag

Chair, RCVS Knowledge

About us

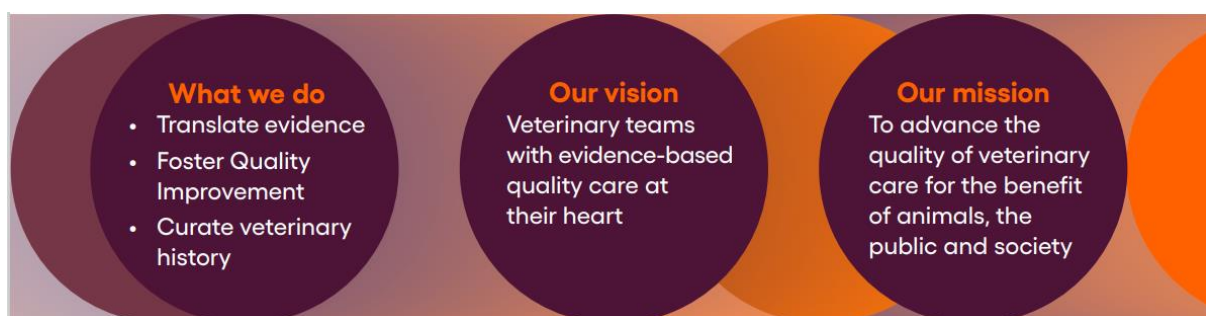
We are RCVS Knowledge, an independent charity at the heart of the veterinary professions with a mission to advance the quality of care for the benefit of animals, the public and society.

We work to meet our objectives by empowering the veterinary community with information and tools to deliver evidence-based quality care. We translate and disseminate the latest research from across the globe. We foster approaches to shared learning with training and tools. And we log and track the evolving professions, so that we can all be guided by the lessons of history.

Through our Library and Information Service, we support veterinary practitioners and researchers to identify and access the best available evidence. Our open access, peer-reviewed journal, *Veterinary Evidence*, helps veterinary teams explore the world of evidence. Our journal watch, inFOCUS, enables the veterinary community to swiftly discover the latest research with the potential to impact patient care.

We encourage and support team-wide learning based on improvement science, providing training and tools to help veterinary teams integrate continuous improvement into the care they provide. We curate a unique and growing veterinary archive, which enables the professions and the public to learn about and from the past.

Everything we do is designed to help advance veterinary care for the benefit of animals, the public and society.



Recruiting new trustees

We are looking to recruit three new board members. RCVS Knowledge is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and wants to ensure that there is a diversity of perspectives on

the Board. We therefore particularly welcome applications from currently under-represented groups, including people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and people living with disabilities and across a broad age-range.

Key Information

- **Time commitment:** Three trustee meetings a year (two virtual, one in person, normally in central London), an Annual General Meeting, plus preparation time to read papers. You may also be asked to join a Board Committee which typically have between one and three additional meetings a year, and to join other occasional meetings and events.
- **Remuneration:** These are voluntary roles. Reasonable travel expenses will be paid.
- **Term:** The appointment is for a three-year term. Trustees will be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term of three years.

Information about our current Trustees can be found here:

<https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/board-of-trustees-2022/>

Main role and purpose of Trustees

RCVS Knowledge (the trading name for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Trust) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The board are trustees of the charity and directors of the company, with responsibility for the overall governance and strategic direction of RCVS Knowledge.

Responsibilities

- Help to define and support the vision, goals and activities of RCVS Knowledge
- Shape strategy and oversee and drive impact
- Encourage teamwork among Board members and create a strong, working relationship with other Trustees and the Chief Executive
- Identify potential development opportunities for the charity, and leverage relationships to facilitate this
- Protect the reputation and resources of the charity through identifying, monitoring and managing risks
- Appoint and give support to the Chief Executive
- Always act in the best interests of RCVS Knowledge and to the benefit of present and future beneficiaries of the charity

- Make a positive contribution to the charity's governance, in accordance with the Trustee Code of Conduct and declaring as appropriate any conflict of interests

Who we're looking for

We are looking for candidates who bring diverse expertise and a commitment to our mission of advancing the quality of veterinary care for the benefit of animals, the public and society.

We are particularly seeking people who:

- Have commercial and business management experience in the veterinary sector or a related sector
- Bring experience of charity leadership and/or fundraising in the charity sector, or
- Are a veterinary nurse with experience of Quality Improvement.

If you are passionate about making a difference to the veterinary care that animals receive, we invite you to join us in shaping the future of our charity.

Qualifications and experience

All Trustees

- A commitment to the mission of RCVS Knowledge to advance the quality of veterinary care for the benefit of animals, the public and society
- Evidence of effective delivery working as part of a team
- A strong personal commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion
- Ability to lead through facilitating, enabling, and consensus-building
- Ability to challenge constructively and supportively
- Ability to operate strategically, noticing trends, opportunities and risks
- Integrity and a value of openness, honesty and transparency in decision-making
- Analytical skills and sound judgement
- Excellent communication and stakeholder management skills
- An understanding of and commitment to the legal responsibilities of a Trustee role
- Previous experience of being a Trustee is not required; however, candidates should have an understanding of the non-executive Trustee role and how the executive leadership team should be supported and encouraged as well as held to account through constructive challenge

Specific skills:

Commercial/business management trustee: We're looking for an individual with significant commercial and business management knowledge and experience in the veterinary/animal health sector or a related sector, with experience of driving income growth. We'd love to hear both from veterinary surgeons and nurses with commercial and business management experience, as well as those without clinical veterinary training who bring business experience through working with or within the veterinary/animal health sector or a related sector.

Fundraising/charity leadership trustee: We're looking for a 'lay' person (non-veterinary professional) with experience of working in a leadership position in the charity sector. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who bring experience and knowledge of fundraising including philanthropy, strategic corporate partnerships, charitable foundations and legacies.

Veterinary nurse trustee: We're looking for a veterinary nurse with experience and knowledge of Quality Improvement.

How to apply

To express an interest in the role and to be considered, please send the following to info@rcvsknowledge.org

- An up-to-date CV
- A supporting statement that addresses the criteria in the Qualifications and Experience above and outlines your motivation for applying

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role, please email info@rcvsknowledge.org to arrange for a conversation with the Chair or the Chief Executive Officer.

Timetable and interview process

Applications must be submitted by Sunday 16 June 2024. Successful candidates will then be invited to a virtual interview. Provisional dates for interviews are: 1 July, 3 July, 9 July 2024.

Our mission is to advance
the quality of veterinary care
for the benefit of animals,
the public and society.

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