

# SPVS Board Member Application

## Further information- FAQs

### What are the aims and purpose of SPVS?

SPVS key focus is providing non clinical support to veterinary practices in the UK. The veterinary profession faces many challenges such as recruitment, retention, wellbeing and gaps in leadership and management.

#### **Our vision is:**

*“Produce holistic support to veterinary practices to ensure they are sustainable, profitable, happy and productive places to work within”*

**The mission** of the organisation is to deliver both support, education and representation to our members throughout their careers.

*“Our aim is to facilitate a culture of support and community for practice owners and veterinary leaders through the development of industry leading provision and representation. Supporting students through to retirees, SPVS is dedicated to supporting veterinary professionals through each stage of their career.”*

**The values of SPVS** are highlighted below. For a practice to survive and thrive the whole practice team have a focus on the profits of the business but not at the expense of the people working within the practice

*“SPVS is committed to a sustainable future and to improving the social, economic and environmental well being of the veterinary community”*

Ultimately SPVS is all about helping and representing veterinary practices and their whole practice team in the non-clinical space.

### How does the Board work?

The Board meets 4 times per year. In the last 2 years we have met virtually but we anticipate returning to face-to-face meetings with an option for hybrid engagement for those that are unable to attend in 2022.

The Board meetings are a full day and £200 stipend plus travel expenses can be claimed for each day at Board. Papers are circulated to you ahead of the meeting and the discussions focus on the topics of the day. The purpose of the board is to represent the needs of our members and ensure that the strategic direction of SPVS is aligned with current and future needs of our members.

SPVS has a number of active working groups which communicate through an online platform called Basecamp. This allows for seamless sharing of ideas and information and allows for smaller groups of Board and non Board members to work on specific projects (COVID, EMS, Wellbeing etc)

### Who should apply for a Board position?

SPVS is actively involved with RCVS and BVA and represents members views on a variety of issues which is why we are seeking to ensure that we have the right mix of skills and experience. Board

members who are currently in practice are highly valued and those that have recently retired have time and enthusiasm to “give back” to the profession. Veterinary practice is about the whole team, and we would welcome applications for any person working in the veterinary industry that has something to offer making SPVS even more successful as an organisation.

Full IT support is provided for Board members and there is no particular requirement to be an IT whiz to be on the Board!

### What time commitments should I expect to make?

There are 4 Board meetings per year, and it is expected that the Directors will make every effort to attend those meetings. Full contribution is encouraged, and all views and opinions are valued.

Individual Directors who have more time may be asked to lead a working group. SPVS is acutely aware of the pressures that exist with those that are working full time and all that may be expected is for comments on documents and proposed actions are all that is required.

If you want to get involved, help veterinary practices thrive and go forward, then apply for a position at SPVS. If you feel unsure about applying please contact [office@spvs.org.uk](mailto:office@spvs.org.uk) and we will get a Board member buddy mentor to get in touch with you to help support your application.