RSPCA Branch Trustee role

About the opportunity

We are the Surrey East Branch of the RSPCA and it's our vision to live in a world where all animals are respected and treated with compassion.

Do you have professional expertise you could use to help a good cause? Are you passionate about animal welfare? Trustees manage the affairs of our local RSPCA Branch to promote and provide animal welfare within the branch area.

Main activities:

- To be familiar with and support the aims and policies of the RSPCA.
- To be familiar with our branch rules and follow them at all times.
- To work with your fellow trustees and branch officers to jointly act in making decisions for the best interest of our branch and the RSPCA.
- To ensure the branch meets all the minimum animal welfare standards (MAWS). Where they are not met, work with national RSPCA staff to meet the standard as soon as practicable.
- In conjunction with your fellow trustees and Branch support specialist (BSS), to write, adopt, monitor and review a branch development plan setting out the short and long-term aims of our branch.
- To actively participate in branch committee meetings and attend the branch annual general meeting, and regional conference.
- To be aware of the outcome of regional board meetings and support regional initiatives.
- To attend trustee training courses..
- To actively promote and advertise the society in an ongoing programme to recruit new branch trustees and volunteers.
- To welcome new trustees and volunteers to the branch.

About the RSPCA

We're proud to be the oldest welfare charity in existence

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- We were the first to introduce a law to protect animals and we work hard to ensure that all animals can live a life free from pain and suffering.
- Through our campaigns we raise standards of care and awareness of issues for the animals who have no voice. We push for laws to be changed, improving the welfare of animals on farms, in research labs, in the wild, in paddocks or in our homes.
- Through investigations and prosecutions, we stand up to those who deliberately harm animals to send out a clear message - we will not tolerate animal abuse.
- We believe every animal has the right to be counted as an individual. Animals can rely on us to rescue them when they need us most. To rehabilitate them wherever possible, provide them with the very best veterinary care and to find them new homes, either through rehoming or release.

RSPCA Branch Trustee role

What are we looking for?

- Most people aged 18 or over are eligible to become a trustee. You will need to become a member of the RSPCA. Good interpersonal skills are important. You do not need to be an expert although commitment, common sense and the ability to be objective is vital.
- Specific skills such as finance, fundraising, project management, business experience, and awareness of employment and/or charity legislation can be useful, but not essential.
- Trustees must sign a Trustee Declaration of Willingness to Act to clarify that they are not disqualified from being a trustee and that they accept the post.
- In addition to our standard declaration of willingness, trustees also need to complete a declaration from the Charity Commission and read their guidance for individuals on who can't be a trustee or senior manager of a charity.

What can we offer you?

- It's a great way to meet like-minded people who share your enthusiasm for animal welfare.
- You will have the opportunity to gain new skills and develop existing ones, whilst making a real difference to the lives of animals.
- New RSPCA trustees are provided with a document "Trustees handbook" and asked to attend a training course which provides information and guidance about a trustee's role and responsibilities.
- Ongoing support is also provided by regional and national RSPCA staff in addition to any additional training provided by the relevant branch.
- Volunteer at the heart of the local community.

Practical Considerations

As a minimum, trustees would be expected to attend an evening monthly committee meeting lasting some 2 to 3 hours. Further commitment will vary depending on the additional duties trustees take on, or their specific roles such as chairman, treasurer or secretary.

Trustees are elected for a 12-month term each year.

Further information and how to apply

For information about becoming a Charity Trustee, and to ensure it's the right decision for you, we recommend reading Charity trustee: what's involved

Please visit our website for more information about our branch and email contract_us@rspca-surreyeast.org.uk with any questions.

To apply, please email contract_us@rspca-surreyeast.org.uk with your CV and a covering letter explaining why you would like to be a Trustee, and what skills and experience you could bring to the role.