

Toronto Humane Society Board Director Profile

With a proud 137-year history, Toronto Humane Society is one of Canada's oldest and most respected animal welfare organizations. We provide shelter, medical care, and community support programs that strengthen the bond between people and animals. As an independent, donor-supported charity, we operate with an annual budget of over \$13 million, supported by a dedicated team of more than 150 employees, 500 volunteers, and 1,000 foster caregivers.

Our Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding the organization's long-term success. Composed of 15 elected members, the Board provides strategic leadership and governance. Directors are elected for one- to three-year terms, with the number of open seats varying annually. While prior committee involvement is not required, it can be a valuable way to become familiar with the organization's people, mission, and work.

Role of the Board

The Board partners with the CEO to ensure long-term success and mission alignment. Together, the Board is responsible for:

- Shaping and approving the strategic plan;
- Overseeing financial and operational performance;
- Setting and reviewing policies that protect animal welfare, ensure organizational integrity, and manage risk;
- Supporting fundraising efforts and approving budgets and audit reports;
- Hiring, evaluating, and, if necessary, transitioning the CEO;
- Ensuring effective performance measurement and Board succession planning.

Board members do not engage in day-to-day operations—that responsibility rests with the CEO and senior staff.

Director Responsibilities

Board members are expected to:

- Prepare for and actively participate in Board and committee meetings;
- Serve on at least one committee and contribute to special initiatives;
- Stay informed about sector developments and share relevant expertise;
- Maintain confidentiality, act with integrity, and support collective decisions;
- Represent Toronto Humane Society positively in the community;
- Actively support the organization's fundraising efforts and help build connections within the community;
- Abide by all by-laws, codes of conduct, and policies, including maintaining high standards of personal animal care.



Time Commitment

Directors should expect to dedicate approximately 20 hours a month for meetings, preparation, and committee work.

Qualifications

Directors are elected by Toronto Humane Society members and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. To be eligible, individuals must:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- Not be an undischarged bankrupt;
- Be a voting member in good standing (membership must be activated within 10 days of election);
- Have no convictions related to animal abuse.

Desired Skills and Experience

Toronto Humane Society is committed to maintaining a well-rounded and effective Board of Directors. For the 2025 recruitment cycle, we are particularly seeking individuals with expertise in the following areas:

- Fundraising, grant writing, and donor engagement – to support our mission through strategic revenue generation and relationship-building
- Legal – to strengthen governance practices and ensure compliance with applicable regulations
- Governance – to guide the Board in upholding its fiduciary responsibilities and maintaining best practices in nonprofit oversight

Candidates with experience in one or more of these areas—and a demonstrated commitment to animal welfare—will bring important value to the Board.

Personal Attributes

Successful Directors bring:

- A collaborative, thoughtful, and respectful approach to decision-making
- Strong communication and critical thinking skills
- Integrity, patience, and the ability to listen and contribute constructively
- A genuine passion for animals and belief in the human–animal bond

