

AO VET International Board AO VET Chairperson

Job Description June 2026

AO VET Searches: AO VET is seeking a highly motivated and active veterinary surgeon who is passionate about advancing ideas across professional and cultural boundaries. The ideal candidate combines clinical excellence with strong business acumen, political awareness, and proven management skills.

As Chair of the AO VET International Board, you will lead and oversee all board activities, guiding a diverse, global community in a rapidly evolving environment. You will play a pivotal role in fostering unity across regions and cultures, while setting new standards in veterinary musculoskeletal care.

This role requires a visionary leader with the personality, drive, and time commitment to inspire others, navigate complexity, and seize emerging opportunities. You must thrive in a multicultural setting, be free to travel internationally, and be ready to position AO VET as the global leader in education, innovation, and community for veterinary surgery.

If you are ready to unite and elevate AO VET, and to help shape the future of veterinary care worldwide, we invite you to apply.

Position: AO VET International Board Member
Function: Chairperson AO VET International Board (AO VIB)
Territory: Global
Reporting to: AO VET International Board (AO VIB) and AO Foundation Board (AO FB)
Term: 3 years (renewable by election)
Dates: 1st July 2027 – 30th June 2030

Eligibility criteria

- AO VET Member in good standing **and**
- Current or past AO VIB members
- Exceptional candidates with a demonstrated commitment to AO VET activities

Requirements: Internationally recognized, practicing veterinary surgeon – either small or large animal surgeon
Demonstrated knowledge, experience and expertise in musculoskeletal surgery.
Free of encumbrances that might place the Chairperson and/or the Foundation at risk of compromise
Demonstrate servant leadership, by doing what is best for the organization ahead of all others
Holds a current or previous leadership position at a university hospital or recognized veterinary institution

Good research reputation - well published in high impact journals of veterinary surgery

Recognized as an excellent educator with considerable experience as AO VET faculty

Outstanding international experience inside and preferably outside AO VET

Business awareness –understands business strategy and marketing-like activities

Established personal relationships with international opinion leaders in veterinary surgery

Outstanding communicator / listener / diplomat / facilitator

Has the ability to work with multi-cultural teams—enjoys leading by engaging and delegating

Highly motivated; energy and vision to build AO VET as a world leading veterinary organization.

Prepared to commit up to 5-10 days per month away from his or her clinical practice and to be reasonably accessible at his or her clinical practice

Ready to prepare, attend and actively participate in Board meetings—AO VET, combined AOFB/CS boards, and other meetings as appropriate, both in person and online.

Good command of English (written and spoken) – mandatory

Any other global languages – advantageous

Responsibilities:

Accountable to the AO VET International Board and the members of AO VET community

- Set the direction and mission of AO VET for their 3-year term keeping the overall mission in mind
- Lead AO VET without bias—adhering to the by-laws, guidelines and policies
- Ensure that AO VET remains a surgeon led community—creating value for its members
- Communicate plans to AO VIB and all AO VET Regional boards and commissions.
- Identify and engage potential successors

Accountable to the AO Foundation Board for the performance and compliance of AO VET

- Ensure that AO VET conforms to the charters (incl. by laws, code of ethics) and policy guidelines of the AO Foundation
- Convey and implement AOFB directives to the AO VIB and its regional and country entities
- Advance the vision and mission of the AO Foundation

Chair the AO VET Board meetings

- Ensure that the structure of AO VIB mirrors the strategic intent and needs of the organization
- Make sure AO VIB has fair regional and sub-specialty representation
- Conduct and facilitate AO VIB meetings without self interest in an efficient and effective manner

- Delegate the right tasks and projects to the right members
- Manage meetings in a cost effective and time conscious manner
- Sign and distribute minutes of AO VIB meetings to all relevant parties

Develop AO VET's credibility, integrity, and independence

- Leverage and position AO VET as the recognized global leader in:
 - Education, Research, both clinical and experimental, and Community Development

Ensure performance and effectiveness of the AO VET Commissions

- Set and measure performance of AO VET Commission Chairpersons
- Ensure the AO VET Commissions create alignment and value for our Regional Boards
- Attend the meetings, when possible and financially sustainable.
- Support the development of proactive succession planning within the commissions

Maintain regular contact with the AO VET Regional Boards

- Attend regional board meetings where possible and financially sustainable
- Exchange with the regional chairperson in a proactive manner
- Present the vision, mission, and activities of the AO VIB and AO FB to Regional Board members
- Support the development of proactive succession planning within the regions

Support the development of mutually beneficial alliances/partnerships

- Plan and manage the building of relationships with industrial partners
- Create alliances with regional, national, and international veterinary societies and other appropriate entities
- Establish sponsorship partnerships

Lead the collaboration and exploit the synergies with other AO parties:

- AO Clinical Specialties—AO Trauma, AO CMF, AO Spine, AO Recon and AO Sports as well as with any initiative.
- AO Service organizations—Education, Clinical Research, Research, TC, Finance, HR and Communications

Act as primary liaison between AO VET and AO's Industrial Partners

- Ensure the collaboration with AO's Industrial Partners and foster the relationship

Support the personal development of AO VET Employees across the globe

Remuneration

As per AO Foundation Guidelines