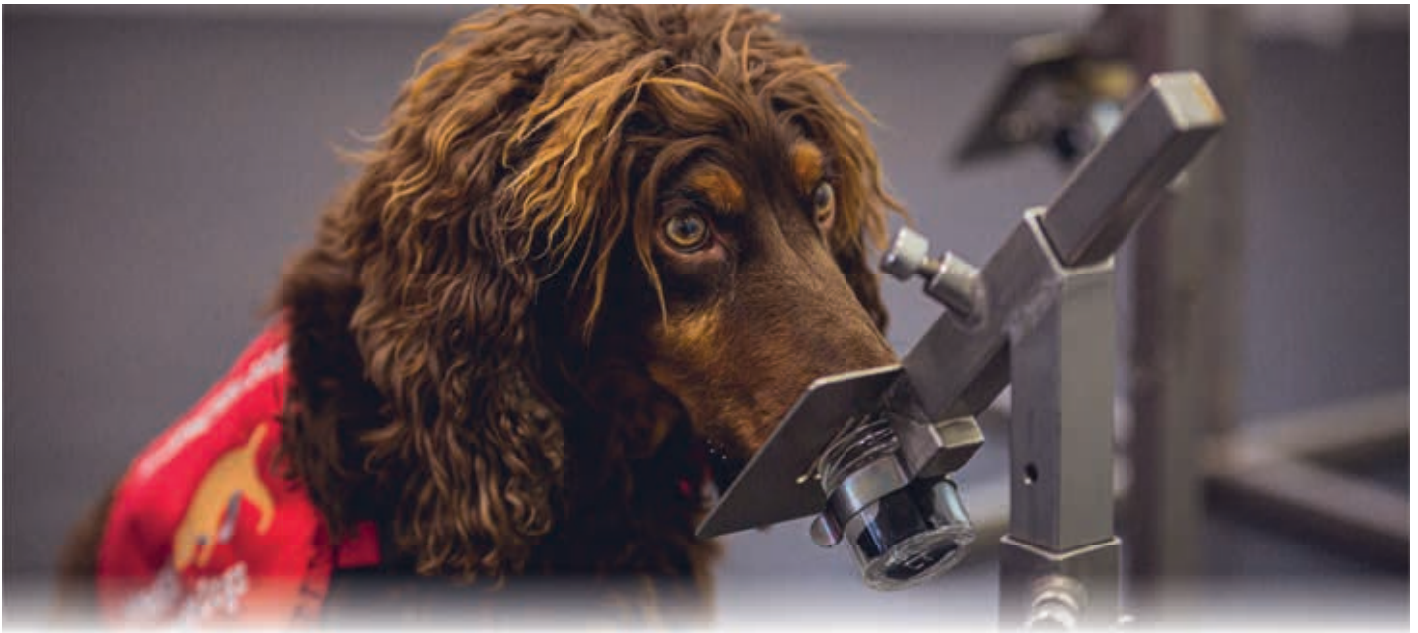


CAN YOU HELP US SAVE MORE LIVES?

We have an exciting new vacancy for a visionary Chair of Trustees to provide leadership, governance and strategic direction for our life-changing charity.



About Medical Detection Dogs

Medical Detection Dogs trains dogs to save lives

We are the pioneering organisation for research into canine olfactory diagnostics. We train dogs to detect the odour of disease with the aim of developing faster, more efficient and less invasive diagnostics that lead to better patient outcomes.

Our Bio Detection research includes cancer, neurological disease and bacterial infections, and has the potential to benefit millions. We already apply what we know about the science of canine olfaction to benefit people by training Medical Alert Assistance Dogs, which help individuals manage complex, life-threatening medical conditions including diabetes, PoTS, Addison's disease, non-epileptic seizures and severe allergies.

In 2004 our co-founders, Dr John Church and Dr Claire Guest published in the BMJ the results of a groundbreaking proof of principle study looking at olfactory detection of human bladder cancer by dogs. This led to the Charity's founding in 2008, since then we have published a further 14 peer reviewed papers including in the BMJ (2004), Cancer Biomarkers (2011), PLOS ONE (2013, 2019 and 2021), Chemical Senses (2014), the Journal of Biosocial Science (2019) and Frontiers in Veterinary Science (twice in 2019), and placed more than 200 Medical Alert Assistance Dogs with people who need them. Our research projects are collaborations with NHS Trusts, universities, and researchers, both in the UK and internationally.

Since inception, our income has been predominantly from public donations and grants from charitable trusts. It has grown slowly but steadily, and recently passed the £2 million a year mark. In April 2020 we were successful in an application to the Department of Health & Social Care for funding towards the COVID-19 study, the only we have received from government.

This research raised our public profile, increasing the number of people who have supported us.

Services Delivered

- Bio Detection Dogs:** Trained to detect diseases such as cancer, malaria, and bacterial infections.
- Medical Alert Assistance Dogs:** Provide life-saving alerts for individuals with conditions like diabetes and PoTS.
- Community Medical Detection Dogs (CMDD):** A new initiative aimed at detecting conditions such as urinary tract infections in care homes and community settings.

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen has been the Royal Patron of MDD since 2014 and has actively supported the charity, attending demonstrations and hosting events to showcase the dogs' capabilities. In celebration of its 15th anniversary, MDD held a reception at Clarence House, where The Queen witnessed a demonstration of dogs detecting urinary tract infections.

Our Goals

We have ambitious plans to expand our impact and continue pioneering the use of dogs in medical research and assistance. Some of our key future initiatives include:

- Expanding Medical Alert Assistance Dog Placements:** We aim to increase the number of partnerships, particularly by adapting our delivery model to accommodate more applicant-owned dogs alongside our own dogs.
- Community Medical Detection Dogs (CMDD) Programme:** This initiative is designed to detect conditions such as urinary tract infections in care homes and community settings, allowing dogs to scan multiple individuals quickly and facilitate early medical intervention.
- Bio Detection Research:** We continue to build on our research achievements, aiming to translate past successes into real-world applications that improve early disease diagnosis.
- Regional Expansion:** We are working to increase our presence across different regions, ensuring that more people can benefit from its life-saving services.



Role Specification

As Chair, you will provide leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensuring effective governance, strategic oversight, and long-term sustainability. You will work closely with the CEO and Trustees to uphold the charity's mission, engage stakeholders, and champion Medical Detection Dogs both internally and externally.

•Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic direction and leadership to the Board.
- Ensure compliance with regulatory, legal, and financial obligations.
- Chair trustee meetings, driving effective decision-making and governance.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity, engaging funders, partners, and stakeholders.
- Support and challenge the CEO to ensure strong operational performance.
- Promote inclusivity, diversity, and a positive working culture among trustees and leadership.

Person Specification

We are looking for a Chair who possesses:

- **Leadership experience** - previous board-level or governance experience, and experience in the charity or healthcare sector would be desirable.
- **Strategic vision** - ability to guide the charity's direction and anticipate future challenges
- **Advocacy and relationship-building skills** - a strong network and presence to represent Medical Detection Dogs.
- **Financial and governance knowledge** - understanding of charity operations, compliance, and ethical responsibilities.
- **Passion for our mission** - a commitment to making a real impact on lives through Medical Detection Dogs.

The statutory duties of a trustee:

Trustees are responsible for the work that MDD does and how it does it. Trustees have a number of statutory duties, which are:

- To ensure that the Charity complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that the Charity pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- To ensure the Charity uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects for the benefit of the public
- To contribute actively to the board of trustees' role by giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of the Charity
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Charity including having appropriate policies and procedures in place
- To ensure the financial stability of the Charity
- To protect and manage the assets of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the Charity's funds
- To follow proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal and remuneration of the chief executive.



Board structure

Medical Detection Dogs is governed by a board of, at present, 5 trustees which we are seeking to increase to a total of 6 over time. Trustees are appointed by the board for a three-year term and can be reappointed.

Sub-committees may be called as and when the need arises whose membership would include trustees and external members with appropriate skill and experience.

Commitment

Board meetings are usually held four times a year, with 4 additional interim meetings, and sub-committees will meet as required (in person or remotely). Board meetings usually take place in Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire with an online option and interim meetings are online.

Outside of board and committee meetings, staff may seek to consult with trustees on particular subjects and there will be opportunities to attend meetings and events related to the Charity's activities.

The role is unpaid, however reasonable expenses are paid in line with the Charity's expenses policy.

How to apply

If you are excited about leading an innovative and life-changing charity, we would love to hear from you. To apply, please submit your CV and a short covering statement explaining why you would be a strong fit for the role.

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Emily
[emily.richardson@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk]

Applications will be accepted until **20 June 2025**.

Why join us?

This is an exceptional opportunity to lead an innovative charity that transforms lives through pioneering canine detection and support.



www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk

01296 655888

3 Millfield, Greenway Business Park, Winslow Road, Great Horwood,
Milton Keynes, MK17 0NP.

**Medical
Detection Dogs**



Patron: HM The Queen