

# Candidate Profiles

## Board Recommended Candidates

### Alexandra Kelso

As a veterinarian I have dedicated my entire working career to the health and welfare of animals. I have worked with many rescue organizations to care for animals in distress – I understand the compassion, resources, and skill required. As a board-certified veterinary radiologist, I often collaborate in management of complex cases, including cases of trauma or non-accidental injury. This foundation of medical expertise and experience has prepared me to serve on the board of the Toronto Humane Society. The diversity of services and level of care offered by the Toronto Humane Society is testament to the dedication of the employees and volunteers and visionary planning of the leadership. Having worked in many veterinary facilities, including community practices, specialty hospitals and academia, I understand the operational challenges of balancing limited resources, staff requirements and facility management required to maintain the highest level of care. It would be my honour to serve the Toronto Humane Society on the board of directors.

### Christina Di Rosa

I am a huge animal lover and animal welfare is the cause that is most near and dear to my heart. I am very active in the community and in promoting fundraising initiatives. In the past year, I have been active in many Toronto based charities raising everything from funds to items needed to support those organizations. My hope is to utilize my current platform to help drive donation dollars to Toronto Humane Society and to raise awareness for animal welfare. My background in finance and wealth management will be an asset to the board.

### Damian Creber

It has been my honour to serve on the Board of Directors for Toronto Humane Society for the past three years. I have over a decade of finance experience and have helped raise and oversee an investment account of over \$300 million USD. I have spent my entire life around animals and love the fact that I have been able to blend my professional experience with my personal love of all animals. Naturally, Toronto Humane Society is the leading animal welfare organization in the city, and I am excited to offer my skills to assist the board and leadership in moving the mission and strategic plan forward.

### Gary Milakovic

This past year, I have proudly served on the Board of Directors at Toronto Humane Society. I am passionate about animal welfare and believe in a society where all animals are respected and valued. As a pet parent, I know the value of the human-animal bond and understand its importance to the members of our community.

I have experience in fundraising and governance and have worked in both the private and public sector. I will continue to bring my distinctive perspective to Toronto Humane Society, fostering growth and success, and ultimately supporting the organization's vision of becoming a leading force in animal welfare.



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### **Liz Everett**

I developed a love for animals at an early age, which I nurtured through the pursuit of my Marine Biology degree. I started my career in the Science Communication field, supporting charitable organizations including Actua and Science Museum Group. From these experiences, I gained an appreciation for non-profit organizations and how vital fundraising is for standing up and achieving ambitious goals. After years of engaging and fulfilling work in science communication, I came to realize I had a passion to enact a larger-scale impact. As an Associate in the Leadership Development Program at RBC, I am currently working within the Sustainable Finance team to find alignment between client financing needs and RBC's suite of sustainable financing products. I have been an active and passionate contributor to Toronto Humane Society's Animal Welfare Committee, where I have been able to blend my critical thinking skills with my deep love for animals. I value organizations, such as Toronto Humane Society, which lend themselves to empowering individuals with knowledge, and to protecting and preserving the human-animal bond.

### **Marcie Somers**

I am passionate about animal welfare and am seeking an opportunity to use my background in marketing and communications to increase brand awareness, donor acquisition, and revenue for Toronto Humane Society. I am involved with the welfare of animals in many ways in my life. I am the lead for marketing and communications for the Companions for Change portfolio, which is PetValu's community investment program, where we support rescue organizations in need of funds. I foster for several rescue organizations, and I have been the Chair for the Aspen Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary. I have 15 years of experience helping organizations improve their marketing capabilities and processes, and I can do the same for Toronto Humane Society.

### **Roxanne Yanofsky**

Animal welfare is a large part of my life. In addition to co-running a dog rescue, I have facilitated over 100 adoptions since 2017 and I regularly assist animal rescue organizations on legal provisions to include in their adoption contracts. As well, I help coordinate several large spay/neuter clinics overseas every year. I have previous board experience with Save A Friend Dog Rescue and Whitney Child Centre. I can help Toronto Humane Society continue its mission to improve the lives of animals by utilizing my financial training to support the organization's financial stability, and by using my legal background to help with strategic guidance and as I continue to stay informed on current animal welfare issues and legislative reform, I can ensure Toronto Humane Society remains a leader in animal welfare. I commit to bringing a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and teamwork to the board.



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### Additional Candidates

#### **Melissa MacIver - WITHDRAWN**

As a veterinarian I have ample experience in animal welfare. Through my role as course coordinator for the Junior Surgery laboratory at OVC, I have worked with shelter animals and shelters. My own dog is a rescue and while I was in the USA, we worked with rescue animals and shelters when their animals would present for surgical diseases. I also participated in a clinic in Mexico where we spayed and neutered animals to help reduce the population density. This was a valuable experience for me as I continued my journey of becoming a surgeon.

My goal of joining Toronto Humane Society's board is to provide additional insight on the wellbeing of animals as a veterinarian. Animal welfare is of the utmost importance to veterinarians, and I hope to be able to assist the board in making informed decisions for the society. My hope is to work together as a team to provide the best possible support for the animals benefiting from the work of Toronto Humane Society.

#### **Koryn Greenspan**

Rescue pets have always been a part of my life and I have never been without a pet in my life. After rescuing my girl Georgia, who had been abused, I started my own company that provided a structured on leash dog walking service. During that time, I single-handedly changed the permit law for the entire industry. Employers of dog walking companies no longer have to buy new permits for each and every new hire, they can now transfer the names over to new employees until the duration of the licence runs out. In addition, permits can now be purchased for 3, 6 or 1 year periods of time. I have volunteered my entire life for various different organizations and am currently in the feline department at Toronto Humane Society. I am a huge advocate for dogs on leash in the city. I believe it saves both the lives of the dog as well as the human and nothing world make me happier than to be able to fundraise, step in, help coordinate efficiency in the organization or be there to aid and assist in any of the wonderful initiatives THS has put in motion. I am truly so invested in improving the lives of animals.

