



## 2025-2026 Professional Board Application

Make a difference for homeless pets and our community by joining the PAWS Chicago Professional Board! Tasked with raising awareness and funds for PAWS Chicago's lifesaving work, Professional Board Members are ambassadors for pets that are most in-need in our city and beyond. The PAWS Professional Board is an integral part of PAWS Chicago, hosting notable fundraisers, such as the Animal Magnetism spring social event and the 5K Walk/Run For Their Lives in the fall. The Board consists of young professionals and community leaders who share an interest in helping amplify PAWS's mission among their networks.

**Updated 3.12.25 Members joining after this date will be grandfathered into our 2025-2026 season.** This means that they will become members immediately upon acceptance of this application but will not be held to their requirements until the start of the 2025-2026 season on August 1, 2025. However, new members MAY start working on their requirements now (such as fundraising for their give/get, attending New Volunteer Orientation and Fundraising Workshop, and Volunteering).

Members are accepted on a rolling basis year-round. For more information, please email staff liaison Carrie Cihasky at [professionalboard@pawschicago.org](mailto:professionalboard@pawschicago.org)

### **Annual Board Commitments (August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026)**

We ask that Board Members help PAWS Chicago in the following ways:

- In lieu of membership dues, members must **purchase tickets to the two Professional Board Events:** Animal Magnetism (April 2026) and PAWS 5K Walk/Run For Their Lives (September 2026). If they cannot make the event, they will need to make a donation to the event (in the amount of the ticket cost).
- Successfully utilize their networks to fundraise and/or secure in-kind donations of **\$1,000 or more.**
- **Volunteer at ONE** PAWS Chicago event, tabling event, or Medical Center Day
- **Regularly attend** our Professional Board meetings (held 6 times a year)
- **ONE TIME ONLY:** Attend a [New Volunteer Orientation](#)
- **ONE TIME ONLY:** Attend a Fundraising Workshop

### ***2025-2026 Expected Meeting Schedule***

All meetings are in person at various companies in downtown Chicago. We have social hour/networking from 5:30-6:30pm with our meeting from 6:30-7:30pm. Dates are TBD but will be held in the following months

- Early August 2025      Also our Awards Ceremony for the 2024-2025 Season!
- September 2025
- November 2025
- Early January 9 2026
- Late February 2026
- **April – Animal Magnetism so no meetings this month**
- Early May 2026

**Here are some examples of items that count toward the give/get fundraising goal:**

- Securing in-kind donation of meeting space, food, and beverages for PB meetings
- Recruiting a company or business to conduct a fundraiser on our behalf
- Set up a Create Your Own Fundraiser page with PAWS Chicago
- Join TEAM PAWS Chicago
- Creating a fundraising team for the PAWS 5K
- Secure any of the following for any of our PAWS Chicago events (Fur Ball, Animal Magnetism, PAWS 5K, Golf Open, and Beach Party)
  - Sponsorships
  - In-kind donations of products or services
  - Silent or live auction items
  - Prize donations
  - Ticket sales (purchased by yourself and/or by friends, family, and coworkers you recruit to purchase tickets)
  - Winning bids on silent/live auction items
  - Donations made during "Bid to Save Lives" paddle raise

Thank you for your interest!

We hope you will consider applying and help us in our mission to build a No-Kill Chicago!

## **PAWS Chicago Professional Board Application**

Once completed, please email to [ProfessionalBoard@pawschicago.org](mailto:ProfessionalBoard@pawschicago.org) and kindly allow 3-5 business days for review/processing.

**PERSONAL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email (please NO work emails as many companies will block our emails as they end in .org) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Referral (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Your pet(s) and their name(s) (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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**INTEREST/EXPERIENCE**

How did you hear about PAWS Chicago? What PAWS Chicago events have you attended or volunteered for in the past?

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Why do you want to get involved with PAWS Chicago’s Professional Board?

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Are you involved with other Boards or Philanthropic endeavors?

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Current company/school

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Tell us about your profession (Job title/tenure/etc.... If you’re student, please share info about your studies):

Do you believe you can complete the Professional Board’s commitments?    Yes    No

\_\_\_\_\_ Print

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Thank you for your interest in joining the PAWS Chicago Professional Board! Kindly allow 3-5 business days for review/processing of your application.