



Position Title: Chief Technology Officer

Department: Information Systems

Reports to: President/CEO

Position Summary

Responsible for leading the strategic direction and support of information systems for Morris Animal Foundation to advance the scientific impact of our work.

About Morris Animal Foundation

Established in 1948, Morris Animal Foundation is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of animals through scientific innovation, education and inspiration. Our investment in research has yielded life-saving vaccines, new treatments for critical diseases, superior screening tests and advanced diagnostic tools. We respond to emerging animal health threats that endanger entire species and make new discoveries in basic animal biology to support applied research. With every study we fund - more than 2,800 to date - we strive to advance the science of veterinary medicine, honoring the founding principles of Dr. Mark L. Morris Sr. to benefit animals worldwide.

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is one of the largest, most comprehensive prospective canine health studies in the United States. The Study's purpose is to identify the nutritional, environmental, lifestyle and genetic risk factors for cancer and other diseases in dogs. Each year, with the help of veterinarians and dog owners, the Foundation collects health, environmental and behavioral data on 3,000+ enrolled golden retrievers.

Position Description

The Chief Technology Officer (CTO) leads the Information Systems department at Morris Animal Foundation and is responsible for the strategic direction of the Foundation with respect to information systems and technology. To meet the growing needs of the Foundation, we are looking for a visionary data systems expert with previous bioinformatics system development experience to collaboratively guide the development and implementation of current and future database resources and citizen science projects as well as general operations and grantmaking management processes. The ideal candidate will advance animal health by creating the best systems, policies and procedures for data collection from pet owners (citizen scientists) to be used to advance scientific discoveries with internal researchers and external research partners, as well as provide oversight of existing and future databases.



Specifically, the Chief Technology Officer:

- Manage the Information Systems Department at Morris Animal Foundation including a current team of four driven software and web developers.
- Lead the design and implementation of information systems used for Foundation-led research, including the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study and the Canine Lifetime Health Project.
- Lead the development of new, comprehensive data collection system(s) to gather genotype and phenotype data from pet owners for use by internal and external researchers for use in scientific discovery and development.
- Work in close partnership with the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) to create appropriate methods for data collection based on the scientific initiatives set by the CSO. Marry collected data to appropriate analysis tools for use by the Scientific Programs team and other researchers.
- Build systems with the potential for expansion in mind, including the ability to connect individual genotype, phenotype and other data with the potential gathering of biological samples to ensure data and samples are tracked together appropriately.
- Utilize responsive design for data gathering tools across platforms when appropriate.
- Create systems for two-way communication across platforms to encourage engagement.
- Support the Foundation in the development of processes and policies for different levels of data sharing with the research community.
- Evaluate buy vs. build decision for data-sharing platforms to best support external researchers.
- Work with the President/CEO and Leadership Team to determine revenue generating strategy of the platform while understanding the needs and expectations of the volunteer Citizen Scientists sharing data with the Foundation.
- Work in harmony with other Leadership Team members to set up the Foundation's strategies, particularly as they relate to the technological infrastructure.
- Work with the design team of the Marketing & Brand Strategy (MBS) team in harmony. While the Information Systems team leads the development of tools and processes, the design team is responsible for the look and feel of the interface with public and researchers. The CTO is responsible for ensuring the user experience is strong while the MBS team is responsible for ensuring brand standards are met.
- Adhere to the Foundation's safety policies and procedures and encourage others to do the same.
- Participate in building a culture of accountability, performance and trust.
- Promote and adhere to Foundation Core Values: Excellence, Respect, Compassion, Collaboration, Innovation, and Determination.



Required Skills

- Highly knowledgeable of science, including bioinformatic systems and associated best practices.
- Experience establishing and implementing the strategic direction for an organization with respect to information systems.
- At least 10 years of management experience leading teams providing information systems support to a larger organization.
- Experience evaluating and selecting commercial software applications in domains including fundraising, email marketing and eCommerce.
- Experience designing and developing computer applications and databases, particularly in the area of biomedical research.
- Knowledge of human research information systems and how they may be recreated for use in veterinary science.
- Knowledge of standard network security protocols and strategies, and experience working with and protecting systems containing sensitive financial and research information.
- Highly collaborative and able to span boundaries to achieve results within Morris Animal Foundation's strong interdependent culture.
- Excellent communication skills; able to translate complex issues to non-technical people clearly and succinctly.

Additional Desired Skills

- Experience leading in a nonprofit organization
- Understanding of budgets and business planning
- Superior leadership, coaching and organizational skills
- Aptitude for problem solving and strategic thinking
- Gifted at generating big ideas, nurturing relationships and maintaining/driving culture

Benefits

Morris Animal Foundation offers competitive pay with ample growth and professional development opportunities for its employees. A full benefits package includes paid employee health, dental, vision, LTD, life insurance as well as a matched 403b, a Lifestyle Savings Account and paid fitness and mental wellness programs. Come be a part of a compassionate and collaborative organization that is bursting with pride for its mission!

Position Specifications

Full time, exempt, supervisory position



How to Apply

Please email your resume, cover letter and salary requirements in a Word document or PDF, labeled with your complete name to Lisa Whipple at lwhipple@morrisanimalfoundation.org. Please list "CTO" in the subject line of your email. **Incomplete and/or inaccurate applications will not be considered.**