

Veterinary Assistant

POSITION PURPOSE: Assist curatorial staff, consulting veterinarian and engineering staff with animal health care and water quality.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Daily observation of all specimens in collection and quarantine for signs of disease and stress.
- Routine health care, fecals, skins scrapes. Daily treatments and preventative health care under supervision of consulting veterinarian.
- Necropsies as needed.
- Daily reports of animal health status to Consulting veterinarian, Director of Live Exhibits and Curator.
- Research as needed for diagnosis and treatment improvements and modifications.
- Perform water quality testing including DO, Ammonia, Nitrites, Nitrates, Copper, Chlorine and others.
- Check water turbidity, temperature, and tank levels and fish health.
- Assist Water Quality Technician to manage water quality lab. Receive, maintain and restock chemical and lab equipment inventories.
- Maintain all water quality and laboratory equipment including regular calibration.
- Maintain on-line log of all water quality and animal health data and observations.
- Assist veterinarian in animal care as needed.
- Assist staff & visitors as needed in a pleasant, professional and courteous manner.
- Other duties as assigned

Knowledge – Requires a Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or a related field or equivalent experience. Requires two years experience working in a related field. Requires knowledge of animal health, biology, nutrition, toxicology, and physiology. Requires experience in performing animal necropsies, routine biological testing such as fecal analysis and blood-work using common lab equipment. Requires knowledge of basic chemistry, water quality testing and an understanding of the life cycle of aquatic systems (Nitrogen Cycle). Skill in using standard water quality lab equipment such as: meters, spectrophotometers, colorimeters, refractometers and tensionometers. Requires good computer and professional communication skills, the ability to operate all required office and building equipment.

Mental - Requires a high degree of concentration and attention to detail. The ability to read and understand designs, specifications, and lab procedures. Ability to follow and convey written and verbal instructions.

Physical - Requires walking/standing approximately 50% of time; sitting approximately 10% of time; lifting up to 50 lbs. approximately 10% of time; stooping, forward bending and crouching approximately 20% of time.

Environmental - Requires capability of performing essential job functions in a laboratory environment where chemicals, materials and activities generally require special precautions, in mechanical equipment rooms where spaces are small and tight, in animal holding and exhibit spaces and in office environments with climate-control and good lighting.

Manual Dexterity - Requires ability to operate computers and other general office equipment, and ability to operate lab equipment and take samples.

Audible - Requires the ability to verbally communicate with employees, distributors and technical professionals in person and via telephone.

Visual - Requires the ability to operate office equipment including computers, use lab equipment and read written instructions and other documentation.

The above description is intended to describe the general content, identify the essential job functions, and set forth the requirements for the performance of this job. It is not to be construed as an exhaustive statement of job functions or requirements.