

ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN

KIND OF WORK

Technical animal health and research work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

An employee in this class participates in specialized animal health programs for the Minnesota Zoological Garden's exotic animal collection. The employee may be engaged in both field and routine laboratory activities necessary to maintaining the proper health of the exotic animal collection. General and technical direction is provided by the Zoological Garden Veterinarian or professional animal health staff, with work reviewed while in progress and upon completion. Technical decisions are made in conjunction with professional staff, with input from the incumbent. Work is reviewed through conference, oral and written reports and inspection reviews in terms of accuracy and adherence to established procedures.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Conducts selected water quality control analyses for aquarium water systems.

May conduct animal blood analyses for blood counts and blood chemistries.

May conduct bacterial isolation and sensitivities of veterinary pathogens.

Operates and maintains specialized laboratory equipment such as spectrophotometer and membrane filter system.

Prepares written reports of laboratory results.

Draws blood samples and administers drugs to exotic mammals and birds.

Restrains animals during medical procedures.

May operate gas anesthesia equipment and cardiac monitoring equipment during surgical and anesthetic procedures.

Prepares instruments, drapes and supplies for animal surgery.

Develops radiographs.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Considerable knowledge of veterinary laboratory equipment, practices, techniques and terminology.

Working knowledge of the clinical procedures used in exotic veterinary medical laboratory technology.

Working knowledge of the principles of biology, zoology or chemistry.

Ability to:

Ability to perform complex laboratory procedures.

Ability to make accurate observations and interpret laboratory test results.

Ability to comprehend and implement technical information.

Ability to prepare and maintain accurate animal health/laboratory records.

Ability to carry out oral and written instructions.

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Rev.:  
Ckd.: 10-4-02

TC: 7-26-79  
Former Title(s): Veterinary Medical Technician