

## **Animal Technician II**

*Revision date: January 27, 2015*

### **Nature of Work**

This is responsible technical work within Animal Care Services (ACS) in the care and use of laboratory research animals. The Animal Technician II is responsible for performing quality support in daily laboratory animal care, maintenance, and technical procedures for animals involved in approved research protocols. This animal care is performed in accordance with guidelines from the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), and the institutional standard operating procedures (SOPs) and policies from the Memorial University Animal Care Committee. Work is performed under the general supervision of a technical superior and is reviewed through observation of results obtained.

### **Illustrative Examples of Work**

The following illustrative tasks indicate the level of skill required and the extent of responsibility involved in this position. This does not limit the duties and skills of the position to the tasks indicated.

- Provides laboratory research animals with food, water, clean cages, housing, environmental enrichment
- Provides environmental monitoring, and daily health observations and reports for assigned animals
- Monitors and follows protocol specific instructions for technical procedures in assigned animals
- Participates in health and safety procedures and practices.
- Performs breeding colony management and maintains associated records under the guidance and instruction of the principle investigator and ACS
- Participates in animal health monitoring and surveillance programs, including sample collection for diagnostic testing
- Administers therapeutic medications topically, IV, IM, ID, SQ, or PO
- Performs surgical preparations and pre, peri and post-operative care
- Operates and cleans Class 2 Biological Safety Cabinets, Laminar flow clean benches, ventilated racks and air handlers
- Maintains, monitors, cleans and stocks the animal housing room environment, and maintains associated records
- Performs individual animal identification techniques under the guidance and instruction of the principle investigator and ACS
- Trains new research staff on animal room procedures and equipment use
- Participates in training workshops involving handling and restraint, identifying sex of animals, wellness monitoring, injections, anesthesia and surgical techniques
- Participates in cage wash, procedure, supply and surgery room preparation and maintenance duties
- Operates and maintains equipment associated with animal care and technical procedures involved in research protocols
- Performs euthanasia
- Performs Technician I duties as required
- Performs other related duties as required

### **Requirements of Work**

Graduation from an accredited post-secondary institution with a diploma from a 2-year animal health or veterinary technology program; CALAS certification at RLAT level, or ability to achieve this status within

2 years after hire; experience (2+ years) in a veterinary clinic or a CCAC approved laboratory animal science facility, which provides the following knowledge, abilities and skills:

- Knowledge of animal care, handling, restraint, breeding, behavior and common technical procedures in laboratory animal species
- Ability to follow SOPs, apply CCAC standards and Animal Care Committee policies
- Ability to submit clear and concise written animal health reports, and to understand detailed research protocols
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, meet deadlines and adapt to growth and change
- Ability to work independently, take initiative, and follow through on work assignments
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and set appropriate priorities with assigned duties
- Ability to work in a collaborative team environment, work well under pressure and use good judgment if difficult situations occur
- Ability to work with small animals, farm animals and aquatics, and associated housing environments
- Ability to lift up to 40 pounds, lift items above shoulder level, work standing up, ergonomically perform physical activities such as pushing, pulling, lifting, stooping and bending, with good manual dexterity and vision
- Ability to maintain reports in Microsoft Word, and write succinct, grammatically correct email communications
- Participate in the university health and safety program
- Ability to perform intermediate computer skills, with word processing and data entry skills
- Ability to effectively communicate with fellow staff, management, researchers and research staff
- May require a valid driver's license

ACS is a 365-day per year operation. Technical staff is required to participate in a rotational schedule to cover weekends, statutory holidays and university closures, e.g. storm disruptions