

Senior Technician

College/Division	College of Health and Medicine
School/Section	Animal Services
Location	Hobart – Cambridge and MSP
Classification	HEO Level 6
Reporting line	Reports to Animal Services Manager

Position Summary

The University of Tasmania is building a vision of a place-based University with a mission to enhance the intellectual, economic, social, and cultural future of Tasmania, and from Tasmania, contribute to the world in areas of distinctive advantage. The University recognises that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ as well as creating a people-centred University that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

We are seeking to appoint a Senior Technician in Animal Services which is part of the [College of Health and Medicine](#).

The University of Tasmania's Department of Animal Services provides professional technical services for laboratory animal care in addition to research project support for faculty, students, and employees of the University of Tasmania. In keeping with the University of Tasmania's policy on Animal Care and Welfare, Animal Services is committed to ensuring high standards of humane animal care and use, necessary to the pursuit and achievement of scientific excellence.

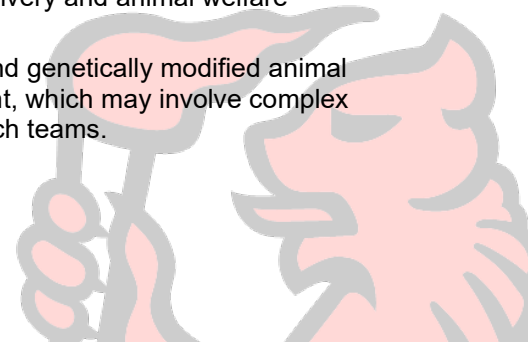
The Senior Technician will be responsible for the daily organisation and operation of the PC2 rodent research facilities. Primary duties will include liaising with and supporting research staff and students, to ensure compliance and best practice relating to all aspects of laboratory animal technology, health and safety, animal ethics and welfare, and scientific procedures in order to support high quality research outcomes.

The incumbent will show to have sound knowledge of legislation pertaining to a PC2 animal facility, e.g. Work Safe Tasmania, Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, and the NHMRC guidelines 2013 and exhibit extensive experience in laboratory animal care, facility operations within a research environment and data management expertise with a defined portfolio of academic and vocational skills developed either within a biomedical or other laboratory animal environment.

We are an inclusive workplace committed to 'working from the strength that diversity brings' reflected in our Statement of Values. We are dedicated to attracting, retaining and developing our people and are committed to inclusive principles. We celebrate the range of diverse assets that gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age and life course bring. Applications are encouraged from all sectors of the community. Tell us how we can make this job work for you.

What You'll Do

- To support the Manager, Animal Services in the coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the daily operations of the animal facility including oversight of service delivery and animal welfare standards.
- Provide support and direction to animal technicians in conventional and genetically modified animal breeding programs. Maintain accurate records for colony management, which may involve complex genetics to ensure the correct genotypes are produced for the research teams.



- Assessing and evaluating animal welfare issues and implementing appropriate action with regard to animal welfare concerns, including seeking advice from the veterinarian team and provision of ongoing reports relating to the welfare, health and behaviour of the animals and advising research personnel, the veterinarian, and the Manager, Animal Services as required.
- Routine maintenance of facility including welfare checks, database entries, weekly stock take, prepare cages for delivery, animal and supplies delivery, supplies order using purchase orders on PurchaseNow as needed, attend to onsite tradespeople, dispose of biological and hazardous waste, and monthly stock take.
- Ensure the animal ethics projects that you are listed on adhere to the requirements of research and animal ethics projects, timelines, and standard operating procedures.
- Under leadership of manager, explore and innovate specialty processes to improve quality and efficiency in service delivery, and to ensure the Animal Services breeding practices remain current and aligned with industry best practices.
- Liaise with and support research workers performing experimental procedures under the authority of an approved Animal Ethics project. Ensure animals that have undergone procedures are identified and monitored by the research workers and record all the necessary data associated with the services provided and experimental work involved.
- Implement and maintain staff and student training and inductions in animal handling and procedures in accordance with Animal Welfare and Animal Ethics requirements, including the maintenance of accurate training records, coordinating pre-assessment of staff and students, and liaising with the veterinarian team for skill assessment when required.
- Actively participate in operational problem solving and continual improvement initiatives and take responsibility for providing advice and leadership in the Manager, Animal Service's absence.
- Coordinate the rodent sentinel and quarantine program, this includes sentinel animals, coordinating health testing, and submitting animals or samples to the external pathology provider.
- Maintain, review and develop a Standard Operating Procedure database and ensure SOPs are active for all animal procedures, revised on an annual basis and reflect animal welfare and best practice.
- Manage the Softmouse animal database, ensuring integration with breeding and experimental facilities, and ensuring all staff are actively trained in the use of the database, search and report functions.
- Assist with facility SHW (safety, health, and wellbeing) inspections, including online reporting using the MySafety system, action plans, issue resolution, and reporting maintenance issues to the appropriate department through online work requests.
- Undertake other duties as assigned by the Manager.

What We're Looking For (success criteria)

- Completion of a relevant degree/diploma with relevant experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Experience in the daily management and operations of an animal facility.
- Understanding and application of rodent technical and husbandry skills with experience in rodent animal husbandry practice and the ability to implement standard animal breeding techniques.
- Experience and demonstrated ability to carry out and manage advanced breeding schemes and maintenance of genetically modified rodent lines with difficult phenotypes.
- Knowledge of the various protocols, regulations, and guidelines, including codes of practice such as NHMRC Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 2013, The Gene Technology Act 2000, Physical containment for animal facilities PC1, PC2, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, Biosecurity ACT 2019.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Desirably, experience and demonstrated ability with various genetic manipulation technologies, including cryopreservation of sperm/embryos, IVF, rederivation of lineages and embryo implantation.

The intention of this position description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.



Other position requirements

- Working with experimental animals, including euthanising.
- Laboratory and workshop activities and handling hazardous substances.
- Undertaking manual handling and lifting up to 10kg.
- Participate in a flexible rotating roster including weekends, public and University holidays and out of hours on-call.

University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania is an institution with an enduring commitment to our state and community, and a strong global outlook. We are committed to enhancing the intellectual, economic, social and cultural future of Tasmania. Our [Strategic Direction](#) strongly reflects the University community's voice that our University must be place based but globally connected as well as regionally networked and designed to deliver quality access to higher education for the whole State.

We believe that from our unique position here in Tasmania we can impact the world through the contributions of our staff, students and graduates. We recognise that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ, as well as creating a university that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

More information:

<https://www.utas.edu.au/jobs>

<https://www.utas.edu.au/careers/our-people-values-and-behaviours>

