

Position description

Animal Technician

Department/Unit	Monash Animal Research Platform
Faculty/Division	Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Classification	HEW Level 3
Work location	Clayton campus
Date document created or updated	25 November 2016

Organisational context

Monash is a university of transformation, progress and optimism. Our people are our most valued asset, with our academics among the best in the world and our professional staff revolutionising the way we operate as an organisation. For more information about our University and our exciting future, please visit www.monash.edu.

The Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences is the University's largest research faculty. World-class researchers work across disciplines including laboratory - based medical science, applied clinical research, and social and public health research. The Faculty is home to a number of leading medical and biomedical research institutes and groups, and has contributed to advances in many crucial areas. Our expertise in life sciences and biomedicine is recognised both nationally and internationally. From a teaching perspective, our education curriculum covers a range of disciplines, including medicine, nursing, radiography & medical imaging, nutrition & dietetics, paramedic studies, biomedical sciences, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, behavioural neurosciences and social work. We take pride in delivering outstanding education in all courses, in opening students to the possibilities offered by newly discovered knowledge and in providing a nurturing and caring environment. To learn more about the Faculty, please visit our website: www.med.monash.edu.au/.

Monash Animal Research Platform (MARP) is a platform within the faculty responsible for providing laboratory animals, animal housing and technical services to Monash University's research base and external biomedical research institutes. MARP comprises of 13 animal facility complex's, which all report to the Director, MARP.

Position purpose

The Animal Technician performs a range of duties to maintain and breed laboratory animals in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the ethical care of animals. The role also involves compiling accurate, timely records for researchers and providing optimum animal welfare conditions at all times. In performing these tasks, the Animal Technician plays a key role in enabling MARP to deliver services to its many clients.

Reporting Line: The position reports to the Senior Animal Technologist

Supervisory responsibilities: Animal Attendants and casual/work placement students

Financial delegation and/or budget responsibilities: Nil

Key responsibilities

1. Maintain the status of laboratory animals in accordance with the SOPs, including general husbandry (feeding, water, cleaning), providing for animals' environmental enrichment, monitoring animals' health & weight and ensuring the availability of adequate animal consumable supplies
2. Provide (and where required, supervise casuals/work placement students in providing) animal production services, including selecting pedigree animal lines for breeding, determining suitable mating pairs, weaning animals, determining sex of neonates and observing animals for any signs of illness
3. Undertake accurate record maintenance, including in relation to breeder data, births & deaths, the animals' physical environment & dispatch information), providing weekly reports to supervisor/manager/researchers as required
4. Providing high levels of customer service, assist in providing researchers with animals (meeting breed and age requirements) and prepare animals for dispatch
5. Perform technical services required for animals (e.g. blood collection, euthanasia, handling/restraining, injections)
6. Adhering to the SOPs, maintain the health status of animals and contribute to the status of the facility by maintaining optimum levels of hygiene for the animals and the workspace
7. In relation to all tasks, report any concerns to the supervisor (e.g. animal illness/health, abnormalities, breaches) and where requested, participate in further investigations
8. Suggest, and where requested, implement improvements in relation to things such as animal welfare, environmental enrichment, health & safety, hygiene/cleanliness and procedural efficiencies
9. Undertake all animal related duties and responsibilities to the highest of ethical standards and in compliance with legislation relating to laboratory animal practices, informing the supervisor of any suspected breaches

Key selection criteria

Education/Qualifications

1. The appointee will have:
 - completion or near completion of an Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Animal Technology); or
 - a combination of relevant knowledge, training and/or experience, preferably in the animal or biomedical research industry

Knowledge and Skills

2. Working knowledge with rodents (such as mice and/or rats), breeding systems and animal husbandry
3. Prior experience in performing animal technical services with rodents and/or large animals (such as injections and collections, euthanasia, identification)
4. Knowledge of relevant legislation including:
 - Victorian legislation: Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 Vic and Regulations 1997
 - Regulatory bodies protocol and procedures: Office of the Genetic Technology Regulator (OGTR) and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)
 - Industry standards: Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes and NHMRC Policy on the Use of Non-Human Primates for Scientific Purposes
 - DPI – Pest Animal Species Permit

5. Sound administrative skills, including sound computer literacy, animal laboratory record keeping experience and attention to detail
6. Proven ability to prioritise tasks and plan workload to meet deadlines
7. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to problem solve with strong attention to detail
8. Ability to work as an effective member of a team as well as independently under routine supervision
9. Experience with specialised machinery (such as irradiator, laminar flow, box and bottle washers, Biosafety class 2 hoods, autoclave, change stations) is desirable

Other job-related information

- Rostered work, overtime and out of hours work may be required (including evenings, weekends and public and University holidays)
- During peak periods of work the taking of leave may be restricted.
- Baseline medical will be required to all selected applicants

Legal compliance

Ensure you are aware of and adhere to legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including: Equal Employment Opportunity, supporting equity and fairness; Occupational Health and Safety, supporting a safe workplace; Conflict of Interest (including Conflict of Interest in Research); Paid Outside Work; Privacy; Research Conduct; and Staff/Student Relationships.

Ensure that all animal related work is conducted to the highest of ethical standards and in compliance with the legislation relevant to laboratory animal practices. Where an employee is concerned that a breach of these acts of regulations has occurred or is imminent, they should immediately notify their supervisor of their concern for clarification or action as appropriate.

Organisational chart

