ANIMAL TECHNICIAN

DEPARTMENT/UNIT	MARP Animal Research Laboratory
FACULTY/DIVISION	Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
CLASSIFICATION	HEW Level 3
WORK LOCATION	Clayton campus

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

There's a certain feeling you get from working at Monash University. It's the feeling that you're a part of something special. Something significant. And that's because you're not just starting your career, or taking on a bigger challenge. You're making a real contribution – surrounded by energetic, inspiring people who are driven to make a difference as well. Monash is a place where you'll be able to develop your career in exciting, sometimes unexpected ways – putting you in the best possible position for a rewarding future. Discover more at www.monash.edu.

The **Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences**, is the largest faculty at Monash University, and offers the most comprehensive suite of professional health training in Victoria. We consistently rank in the top 40 universities worldwide for clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences.

We want to improve the human condition. That is our vision - it has no expiration date. Through academic health centres, other translational models and by educating the healthcare workforce of the future, our staff, students and alumni directly improve quality of life.

Setting the global health care agenda, the Faculty aspires to lead in all areas of research activity and influence local, national and international policy to improve health and social outcomes and health inequalities. We've made a major impact in the world of medical research and become globally recognised for our quality education of over 41,000 doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals.

We are ambitious and aim to maintain our position as a leading international medical research university. We're recognised for the breadth and depth of our research, for our commitment to translational research, for the quality and scale of our research capability, and as a thriving biotechnology hub.

To learn more about the faculty, please visit monash.edu/medicine.

Monash Animal Research Platform (MARP) is the platform within the faculty charged with responsibility for providing laboratory animals, housing and technical services to the faculty's research base. MARP is comprised of eight animal facility locations, which all report to the Director, MARP. MARP employs approximately 100 staff in predominantly technical positions.

MARP provide a range of services to researchers at Monash and for over 250 departments and external institutions Australia wide. Servicing over 2,000 researchers and over 3,000 research projects, totalling in excess of $200M, MARP is providing an integral service to the Australian research community.

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 Animal Technologist and/or Senior Animal Technologist under routine supervision

Supervisory Responsibilities: This position provides supervision to three animal attendants and various casual staff. Supervision responsibilities for this position can vary depending on the location

Financial Delegation: Not applicable

Budget Responsibilities: Not applicable

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 and deaths, the animals' physical environment and dispatch information), providing weekly reports to the supervisor/researchers as required

4. Providing high-levels of customer service, assist in providing researchers with animals (meeting breed and agistment requirements) and prepare animals for despatch

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, and 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 and 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

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education/Qualifications

1. The appointee will have:

   - Completion or near completion of a trades certificate or Certificate III (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, and change stations) is desirable

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- Travel (e.g. to other campuses of the University) may be required
- Out of hours work (including evenings, weekends and public holidays) may be required
- There may be peak periods of work during which the taking of leave may be restricted

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.