

ANIMAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN TITLE SERIES DEFINITIONS

I. DEFINITIONS

ANIMAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

This is entry level. The work at this level is performed under close, progressing to limited supervision.

Positions identified at this level learn and perform routine animal care duties in a research or instructional facility setting. Positions allocated to this title wash cages and clean animal housing areas; mix disinfectants; operate necessary machines and equipment; assist in capturing loose animals; assist in administration of treatments, restraint and transport of animals; assist with tuberculosis testing and observing reactions; obtain body weights; select, mix and prepare diets; feed and water animals; clip and groom animals; assist with record keeping including daily health observations and census; monitor animal and room environments; and report any illnesses or injuries to appropriate staff.

At this level positions practice health and safety rules and precautions necessary to maintain animal health by following written and verbal rules and instructions regarding safety procedures and use of personal protective equipment (PPE); observe standard operating procedures concerning sanitation, movement of equipment and materials and waste disposal, in order to prevent transfer of infectious biological organisms or contamination with hazardous chemicals.

ANIMAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN – OBJECTIVE/INTERMEDIATE

This is either full performance objective or intermediate level technical work related to the care of animals in a research or instructional facility. At this level positions are differentiated from entry-level positions by the increased scope and range of technical knowledge and skills required, and the increased complexity of duties.

At the **full performance objective level**, positions perform duties identified at the Animal Research Technician (i.e., entry) level and in addition perform a variety of the following duties under general supervision: administer medications, injections and treatments, as prescribed; care for animals recovering from surgery; observe animals for care; identify ill and injured animals and report findings to a veterinarian; perform standard animal treatment procedures for minor illnesses; record and report any abnormal behavior or mishandling; assist with breeding; assist with social housing and enrichment of animals; assist with technical procedures; collect blood, urine and fecal samples; perform special procedures for newborns; assure proper levels of sanitation are maintained; perform microbial testing of animal areas and equipment; follow protocols in scheduling and planning cage washing operation and maintenance; apply identification techniques; maintain and order supplies; and enter animal health data into record keeping systems. Positions may train limited-term staff (LTE) and student caretaker staff.

At the **intermediate level**, work is performed under limited, progressing to general supervision. Positions perform duties and responsibilities identified at the Animal Research Technician – Senior level providing the incumbents with the training and experience necessary to eventually perform all duties at the Senior level under general supervision.

ANIMAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN - SENIOR

This is senior level technical work related to the care of animals in a research or instructional facility. The work is performed under general supervision. Positions at this level have gained sufficient experience and knowledge necessary to exercise judgment and complex problem-solving skills in responding to animal health-related, facilities or equipment issues. Positions function with considerable independence of action in providing a variety of technical support and demonstrate the initiative to recognize and take appropriate action as necessary in multiple animal species environments and facilities.

Positions at this level perform duties identified at the lower level and function as 1) the principal technician supporting specific research projects in a given section of a research or instructional facility or 2) provide a variety of technical support for a complex animal operation (e.g., genetically manipulated fragile animals, wild animals, immunodeficient animals, animals infected with zoonotic disease) including all life stages with differing needs. Positions at this level are more directly involved in research and program functions than those at the intermediate/objective level and have authority to implement standard operating procedures and monitor compliance; read and interpret protocols regarding the care and treatment of animals; perform more specialized animal handling and/or health-related procedures, perform more complex record keeping, and spend less time performing routine animal caretaking duties (e.g., diet preparation).

Positions at the Senior level may also be involved in the propagation of research animals or assist in producing specialized strains for use in research laboratories; oversee the environmental enrichment program for various species; schedule animal care activities for efficient use of staff and researchers time; collect daily data on specific research animals; schedule and carry out blood draw requests and process blood samples for plasma collection; coordinate the setup for housing various species according to research and instructional protocols and special instructions; perform identification procedures such as implantation of microchips, administer oral, topical and/or IM/SC injectable medications and treatments; monitor breeding status; and report discrepancies to upper level management.

ANIMAL RESEARCH TECHNICIAN – ADVANCED

This is advanced level technical work related to the care of animals in a research or instructional facility. Knowledge and experience required is similar to that described at the Animal Research Technician – Senior level. The work at this level is performed under general supervision.

Positions at this level perform Animal Research Technician – Senior level work and in addition (1) function as lead worker in assigning, training, guiding, and reviewing the work of lower-level permanent Animal Research Technicians in the unit on a permanent continuous basis and may lead students and limited term employees; or (2) have responsibility for the overall animal care in a large, complex animal operation (e.g., genetically manipulated fragile animals, wild animals, immunodeficient animals, animals infected with zoonotic disease) including all life stages with differing needs; or (3) function as the primary Animal Research Technician in a research or instructional facility where there is no on-site supervisor available on a daily basis and is responsible for the full scope of the animal operations.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment.

III. RELATED TITLES

Experimental Surgery Technician
Necropsy Technician
Veterinary Technician