

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Animal Technician



Our CORE values
Collaboration Openness Respect Empowerment

Organisation	NSW Health
Local Health District / Agency	Western Sydney Local Health District
Position Classification	Animal Tech
State Award	Health Employees (State) Award
Category	Research & Analytics Research
Vaccination Category	Category B
ANZSCO Code	361199 Animal Attendants and Trainers nec
Website	www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/

PRIMARY PURPOSE

The WSLHD Animal Facilities are utilised to enable medical and scientific research. Animal Technicians provide and ensure the care, husbandry, welfare and breeding management of all animal species held and bred at the facilities per the NHMRC Australian code for the care and used of animals for scientific purposes (8th Ed. 2013) and the Animal Research Act 1985 and Regulation 2010.

COVID-19 VACCINATION COMPLIANCY

All NSW Health workers are required to have completed a primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine which has been approved or recognised by the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA). Additionally, Category A workers are required to receive a booster dose three months after completing the primary course of COVID-19 vaccinations. New applicants must have completed the vaccination course prior to commencement with NSW Health, or provide an approved medical contraindication certificate (IM011 immunisation medical exemption form) certifying the worker cannot have any approved COVID-19 vaccines available in NSW.

Acceptable proof of vaccination is the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement or AIR COVID-19 Digital Certificate. Booster doses are highly recommended for all health care workers who have completed the primary course of COVID-19 vaccinations.

For Category A applicants, if dose 3 is not yet due they can sign the undertaking form to confirm they will receive the vaccine within 6 weeks of the dose due date.

RESPIRATOR USE

NSW Health workers may be required to use a respirator, as part of their appointment with NSW Health. Where a respirator is required for use, workers will be instructed in their safe use; including donning, doffing and fit checking. Staff may be required to complete fit testing to selected respirator/s to assess their facial fit/seal.

At all times when a health worker is required to use a respirator, the health worker must not have any facial hair present. Processes are in place to support workers that need to keep facial hair due to religious observance requirements and/ or health conditions.

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ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

National Police Check

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

The care, husbandry, welfare and management of all species of animal held in the WSLHD Animal Facilities.

Participate in research related procedures, collection of biological samples and other technical duties as required to ensure the care, husbandry and welfare of the animals for research purposes and also participate in the facility's animal disease prevention and health monitoring programmes.

The collection, recording and maintenance of daily records, reports and other relevant information as required by the facility management to comply with the Animal research Act (1985) and the NHMRC Code 8th Ed. 2013(updated 2021).

Assist researchers with their projects when required and take a proactive role in the monitoring of animals during research studies and effectively liaise and interact with researchers regarding availability of space (pens, cages, paddocks) to house their animals and the facility as per animal ethics requirements.

Energetically participate in infection control procedures, cage washing, autoclaving and general maintenance of facility hygiene.

Participate in the department's training, orientation and professional development programmes.

Develop a working relationship with researchers and an interest in their research.

KEY CHALLENGES

- A thorough understanding of the care, breeding, husbandry, welfare and ethics of working in a medical research environment where a range of animal species are used for the purposes of studying disease processes, the development of surgical procedures and treatment modalities and the demonstration of safety and efficacy of drugs and implantable devices.
- Because animal welfare is the primary consideration, caring for the animals to ensure their well-being is a 365 day commitment and of paramount importance, particularly on week-ends when there is minimal staff. The ability to work in a team environment and to effectively tolerate a range of personalities within the workplace.

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KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Who	Why
Research staff who are conducting AEC approved animal studies.	To ensure that the care and welfare of the animals is monitored and maintained.
The Director of the Dept. of Animal Care and administrative staff.	For line management and day to day working relationship and communication.
Animal Care colleagues.	Good communication of relevant, timely information to ensure animal health is not compromised.
External suppliers.	Animal Care staff may be required to seek information from external suppliers of products used in the care of animals.
Colleagues at animal facilities at other institutions (Universities, Institutes).	Information gathering to gain further knowledge including managing a particular strain of animal, handling techniques and breeding issues.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Qualifications in Animal Technology (TAFE Cert III or higher) or animal related field (Bachelor of Animal Science) or demonstrated knowledge and understanding of animal research regulatory requirements (Animal Research Act, NHMRC Code and OGTR Guidelines).
2. Familiarity and experience with the husbandry of non-rodent species (sheep and pigs) used in research.
3. Demonstrated high quality record keeping skills and attention to detail.
4. Proven good verbal and interpersonal skills.
5. Experience with common animal research procedures.
6. A dedicated commitment to animal welfare.
7. Availability to work on weekends if required.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Understand and practice person centred care. Participate in quality improvement activities. Work in partnership with consumers on improving and evaluating the delivery of services. Ensure timely and accurate reporting of near or actual incidents or patient safety concerns.
- You must take all reasonable care for yourself and others and comply with any reasonable instruction, policies and procedures relating to work health safety and wellbeing
- Risk Management – Staff should actively identify, communicate and escalate risks and understand their responsibility to manage risk in their day-to-day roles.