

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Senior Animal Technician

CLASSIFICATION: TO-2

DEPARTMENT: Scientific Services

TEAM: Animal Facility

LOCATION: Herston

POSITION OBJECTIVES

The position of Senior Animal Technician is responsible for maintaining an excellent standard of animal welfare to small animals used for breeding and research within the QIMR Berghofer Animal Facility.

ORGANISATION CONTEXT

QIMR Berghofer is a statutory body under the *Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act (1945)*. The mission of QIMR Berghofer is to promote better health through impactful medical research. QIMR Berghofer has a vision to lead the way to significant innovation in health outcomes, nationally and globally. We are committed to supporting ground-breaking research discoveries, achieving sustainability and achieving impact, maintaining an internationally recognised Medical Research Institute within the State of Queensland that is the primary focus of Medical Research within the State. We cooperate with, and where possible assist the work of other medical research institutions within the State and globally.

The Institute focuses its research within four key Programs:

- Cancer Research
- Infection & Inflammation
- Mental Health & Neuroscience
- Population Health

QIMR Berghofer promotes a *Working Better Together* operating model, recognising that whilst the purpose of the Institute is medical research, and the contribution of researchers is key, it cannot be done without the work of our highly-skilled professional staff. It recognises that we are all here to facilitate the same mission – *Better health through impactful medical research*. *Working Better Together* is underpinned by the shared understanding and application of our values:

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Accountability

Scientific Services provides a diverse array of support services to researchers across QIMR Berghofer; including flow cytometry, microscopy, histology, GMP production, animal facilities, veterinary services, analytical facilities, sample processing services, scientific equipment management and cryogenics.

REPORTING STRUCTURE

This position reports directly to the Team Leader and under the broad direction of the Facility Manager

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure animals are maintained in a healthy condition within an enriched environment by performing all tasks including changing and replenishing of food, water and bedding.
- Ensure work practices comply with the requirements of the *Work Safe Act 2011*, related legislative requirements, the Institute's OH&S policies and procedures.
- Ensure that all work on, and with, animals in the facility complies with Australian Code of Practice and the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) recommendations
- Establish and maintain colonies of research and production animals for a number of research groups
- Provide advice and support to Animal Technicians in their work area, including mentoring, coaching and training in techniques and instruction of work practices.
- Maintain animal holding rooms in clean and disease free status and dispose of waste materials in accordance with legislation and facility standard operating procedures
- Maintain, collate and report accurate records of animal numbers, agistment, breeding, weaning and health status for ethics, quality and cost recovery processes.
- Assist in developing and improving documents, such as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and report templates.
- Assist in the implementing and improving work processes, such as weekly work schedules or facility procedures
- Provide advice and support to researchers in animal welfare, husbandry and technical procedures on animals including sample collection and administration, euthanasia and dissection
- Facilitate and carry out technical procedures as requested.
- Take on additional tasks or responsibilities when instructed
- Perform all duties of operational staff when required.

Additional information:

- This position is required to participate in public holiday and weekend roster duties
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KEY SELECTION CRITERIA (Qualifications, Experience, Skills and Abilities)

Essential

- Diploma in Animal Technology or equivalent
- Significant experience (4 – 5 years) in laboratory animal care in a scientific research environment
- Proven experience in colony management and breeding processes
- Proven and demonstrated knowledge of animal husbandry
- Proven and demonstrated abilities in animal handling techniques
- Proven experience with monitoring, animal injections, sample collection and euthanasia techniques
- Proven ability to keep and maintain records with high level of accuracy
- Proven ability to work well in a team and independently
- Capacity to meet deadlines and to follow tasks through to completion
- Good problem solving skills
- Excellent computer knowledge including Microsoft Office
- Good written and verbal communication skills

Desirable

- Experience in managing and maintaining rodent breeding colonies via diverse stratagems
- Experience in designing and following specific breeding management programs
- Experience in managing both production and boutique rodent breeding colonies
- Experience in establishing and maintaining records associated with breeding efficacy and output
- Experience in laboratory techniques with sample preparation, analysis and reporting
- Experience in mentoring junior animal technical staff in common and complex breeding management programs
- Sound knowledge in genetics of breeding
- Experience in training investigators and junior animal technical staff in common laboratory animal science techniques
- Hold DAWE Certification for quarantine containment