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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Animal Technician

Faculty/Division	Science
Classification Level	Professional 3/4 broadband G - Administrative, Clerical, Computing, Professional & Research Staff
Hours & Span (Category)	
Position number	00205528
Shiftwork status	NOT SHIFTWORKER
Allowances	N/A
On call arrangements	N/A
Original document creation	26 August 2022

Position Summary

The **Animal Technician** provides daily animal care and husbandry including maintenance, care and cleaning. This position provides support and technical assistance to researchers and students in the animal facilities in the School of Psychology, Faculty of Science. The Animal Technician is required to undertake duties safely, ethically and in accordance with current legislation including the Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

The Animal Technician reports to the School Manager and has no direct reports.

Accountabilities

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

Level 3:

- Provide daily animal care, including appropriate nutrition, health care, hygiene control, housing and environmental enrichment in accordance with standard operating procedures and ethical standards/legislation.

- Correctly identify animals as per legislative requirements and maintain accurate computerised and manual records of animal movements, ethics approval numbers, housing density, sex, culling and/or other information as required.
- Monitor animal wellbeing, maintain accurate and precise individual animal and research records and report any adverse findings to the School of Psychology's animal facilities co-ordinator or the University veterinarian.
- Provide care and therapies to pre- and post-operative animals and assist in the administration of medicine to animals as required or as directed.
- Support the monitoring of research animals in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes and the Animal Research Act.
- Coordinate animal care duties to ensure daily objectives are achieved, including participation in a weekend and public holiday roster.
- Assist other team members and research staff as required, undertaking any other duties as directed by the Animal Facilities Co-Ordinator.
- Liaise with animal suppliers when necessary.
- Align with and actively demonstrate the [Code of Conduct and Values](#)
- Cooperate with all health and safety policies and procedures of the university and take all reasonable care to ensure that your actions or omissions do not impact on the psychosocial or physical health and safety of yourself or others.

Level 4 (in addition to the above):

- Coordinate the breeding of several lines of transgenic rats by setting up breeding pairs, weaning progeny and adjusting breeding capacity according to the needs of the School's researchers.
- Collect and send progeny tissue samples for genotyping and record genotyping in dedicated colony management software.
- Arrange transfer of animals to researchers in the School of Psychology.
- Maintain accurate record keeping in dedicated colony management software.

Skills and Experience

Level 3:

- Completion (or progress towards completion) of a TAFE Certificate, Associate Diploma or equivalent in Animal Studies or Animal Technology.
- Proficient animal handling and animal therapy skills, including experience in administering basic medical treatment to animals (e.g., injections, oral and topical medications).
- Proven ability to work cooperatively with a diverse group of people by contributing positively to a team environment, as well as the ability to work independently with limited supervision from time to time.
- Familiarity with psychological research and animals (Desirable).
- An understanding of and commitment to UNSW's aims, objectives and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.

- Knowledge of health & safety (psychosocial and physical) responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Level 4 (in addition to the above):

- Demonstrated experience in animal husbandry of a wide range of species, particularly rodents.
- Demonstrated experience with maintaining rodent breeding colonies (rat and mouse).
- Familiarity with the genotyping of rodents.
- Understanding of Mendelian genetics.

PROGRESSION STATEMENT

The incumbent will normally be expected to have reached the top step of level 3 prior to progression to level 4. Criteria for progression to level 6 will be based on satisfactory performance of all duties and accountabilities at level 3 and a demonstrated capacity to take on the duties and accountabilities of the position at level 4.

About this document

This Position Description outlines the objectives, desired outcomes, key responsibilities, accountabilities, required skills, experience and desired behaviours required to successfully perform the role.

This template is not intended to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position. Characteristics of the position may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.