

ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIST

NATURE OF WORK

This is skilled technical work in the establishment and performance of specialized veterinary laboratory tests and examinations within the Animal Care diagnostic laboratory.

An employee of this class determines the feasibility of tests to be introduced in the laboratory, performs diagnostic tests in various disciplines, prepares and forwards specimens to reference labs for testing, performs environmental monitoring, maintains an inventory of supplies and equipment, prepares various reports, conducts library searches and establishes external contacts for obtaining related information. Work involves performing a variety of standardized parasitology, bacteriology, haematology, mycology, serology, and related tests, conducting biochemical analysis of specimens, and preparing a variety of culture media. Work is performed independently within professional standards, but on assignments pertaining to the health of animals, consultation is provided by the Director. Work is reviewed through observation of results, discussion and written reports.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK

Determines the requirement for specific testing within Animal Care; evaluates the feasibility of establishing tests within the laboratory; recommends the establishment of the test; contacts external organizations to obtain relevant information; develops standardized testing procedures; and ensures that quality control is maintained.

Collects and prepares specimens from animals and carries out diagnostic procedures including direct smears, faecal flotations, primary cultures, isolation and identification of potential pathogens, Gram' Stain, antimicrobial sensitivity testing, blood cell counts, haemoglobin and haematocrit and differential counts, serum enzyme tests; etc; prepares bacteriological media, reagents and pharmaceuticals; performs post mortems; records and interprets results.

Determines and prepares animals and/or specimens for forwarding to reference laboratories for further testing; receives and interprets reference labs diagnostic reports; assists in evaluating results and symptoms.

Conducts environmental monitoring of samples of water, bedding, food, cages, air, etc.; carries out testing and interprets results; prepares report on findings.

Maintains records of specimens, tests performed, autopsies conducted, reports received from reference laboratories; maintains files on diseases, specimens, related articles, health monitoring reports of external organizations and incident files; composes reports including diagnostic reports and ad hoc reports and statistics on an as needed basis.

Arranges for audiovisual work; maintains an inventory of supplies and equipment in the laboratory; initiates replacement of supplies and equipment; performs routine maintenance on equipment; initiates safety measures in the lab; and ensures that quality control measures are followed.

Studies literature and participates in educational endeavours to keep abreast of latest techniques, diseases and materials; conducts literature searches; contacts other institutions for information on animal testing, responds to requests for information.

Provides instruction in diagnostic procedures to staff and students including undergraduates and graduates; assists immediate supervisor in the organization and presentation of the annual Animal Care seminar.

Perform other related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS OF WORK

Considerable experience in a veterinary or medical laboratory including experience in the performance of specialized diagnostic tests; graduation from high school supplemented by completion of an approved laboratory technology program qualifying for registration; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the following knowledge, abilities and skills:

Considerable knowledge of the principles, methods, materials and techniques of veterinary laboratory technology.

Considerable knowledge of the basic principles of parasitology, bacteriology, haematology, mycology, serology and histology as related to laboratory technology.

Considerable knowledge of the hazards and safety precautions involved in the work.

Knowledge of the literature and of current developments in the field of veterinary laboratory technology and animal diseases.

Ability to recommend and establish veterinary laboratory tests.

Ability to plan, schedule and reschedule work and to coordinate activities.

Ability to perform assigned tasks according to exactly prescribed procedures and to make accurate observation of tests' results.

Ability to use independent judgement in making decisions.

Ability to tactfully and diplomatically solve a variety of problems

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with faculty and staff and outside organizations

Skill in the use of laboratory equipment and in the performance of required tests and examinations.

Eyesight sufficiently strong to permit extended microscope work and with normal colour perception.

Possession of certificate of Registration in the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologists.

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