

## ANIMAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

### KIND OF WORK

Professional animal health and research work.

### NATURE AND PURPOSE

An employee in this class participates in highly technical animal health programs for the Minnesota Zoological Garden's exotic animal collection. Assignments may be to special projects with an employee responsible for planning and conducting assigned research or clinical laboratory tests, or for coordinating or assisting in specific laboratory or field activities under general direction. In some instances, an experienced employee in this class may supervise or provide initial review over technical employees. The incumbent has authority to make technical decisions affecting the daily operation of the animal health laboratory, or routine field assignments. Major decisions affecting the health of the exotic animal collection are made in conjunction with the staff veterinarian and other professional staff, with considerable input from the incumbent. Work is reviewed by the staff veterinarian while in progress, through conferences, and oral and written reports for accuracy or results obtained.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Conduct animal blood analyses for blood counts and blood chemistries, and bacterial isolation and sensitivities of veterinary pathogens to ensure clinical laboratory tests are performed in maintaining optimum animal health.

Embeds, cuts and mounts tissue so that animal tissues are properly prepared for microscopic study.

Prepares written reports of laboratory results to ensure complete documentation of findings for review by staff veterinarian.

Sets up, operates and maintains specialized laboratory equipment so that such equipment is in operating condition at all times.

Draws blood samples and administers drugs to exotic mammals and birds so that the highest level of animal health is maintained.

Operates gas anesthesia equipment and cardiac monitoring equipment so that the life of the animal is maintained during surgical and anesthetic procedures.

Prepares smears, slides and solutions as required so that clinical laboratory tests can be conducted.

Assists staff veterinarian in conducting necropsies so that disease processes can be evaluated.

Calibrates and prepares telemetry transmitters to ensure such transmitters are in operating condition for implantation in exotic animals.

Conducts literature searches and prepares reports so that the animal health staff may keep abreast of new developments in the animal health field.

May supervise technical employees engaged in field or laboratory work so that such work is performed as prescribed.

May supervise the cleaning and care of laboratory equipment to ensure animal health equipment is maintained in an aseptic condition.

Requisitions and maintains drugs and laboratory supplies so that an adequate stock of such items is constantly maintained.

#### KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

##### Knowledge of:

Considerable knowledge of the clinical procedures used in exotic veterinary medical medicine.

Considerable knowledge of veterinary laboratory equipment, practices, techniques and terminology.

Considerable knowledge of the principles of chemistry and hematology.

Considerable knowledge of modern animal health laboratory principles and techniques, and ability to apply them in the clinical and X-ray analysis for the diagnosis of disease.

##### Ability to:

Ability to conduct laboratory work independently and to relieve staff veterinarian of the work leading to the interpretation of laboratory findings.

Ability to research information for veterinary medical projects.

Ability to comprehend and implement highly technical information.

Ability to prepare and maintain accurate laboratory and other animal health records.

Ability to provide direction to a small number of technical employees.

Est.: 8/79

Rev.:

Checked: 10/06

TC:

Former Title(s):