JOB DESCRIPTION

Animal Handler

Definition of Class
This is a non-supervisory position in which the incumbent performs routine or standardized tasks to provide for the daily feeding and care of various laboratory animals, and to handle large animals used in various laboratory procedures. Incumbent receives direct instruction from supervisor to carry out assignments and is under the general supervision of the Facility Supervisor/Manager.

Examples of Work Performed
Performs routine or standardized tasks to provide for the daily feeding and care of various laboratory animals.

- Measures, grinds, and mixes feed according to specific instructions; feeds and waters animals according to schedule.
- Sanitizes cages and maintains cleanliness of animal quarters and assigned areas.
- Cleans and cares for equipment used to sanitize animal quarters and water bottles; maintains supply of cages, racks, and water devices. Keeps cages and equipment in repaired condition and reports malfunctions.
- Observes animals for signs of diseases or illness, and reports any atypical behavior and changes in environmental conditions.
- Picks up or delivers animals as required.
- Performs minor repairs to cages or equipment.
- Receives, unpacks, and identifies newly arrived animals and checks the shipment prior to introduction into housing facilities. Unloads and places incoming supplies into storage.
- Collects and disposes of waste and carcasses.
- Assists in laboratory tests as needed. Provides some technical assistance, analysis and/or evaluation as directed. Provides technical guidance to lower ranking or new employees.
- Maintains records on activities and environmental conditions in animal rooms and support areas.
- Maintains a set of keys to the area of work responsibility if needed for after hours and weekend duties.
- Checks temperature and humidity daily and reports any changes to the supervisor in charge.
- Performs similar or related duties as assigned or required.

Essential Functions
These essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following. Additional essential functions may be identified and included by the hiring Department.

1. Performs routine or standardized tasks to provide for the daily feeding and care of various laboratory animals.
2. Performs minor repairs to cages or equipment.
Minimum Qualifications
These minimum qualifications have been agreed upon by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in this job class and are based upon a job analysis and the essential functions. However, if a candidate believes he/she is qualified for the job although he/she does not have the minimum qualifications set forth below, he/she may request special consideration through substitution of related education and experience, demonstrating the ability to perform the essential functions of the position. Any request to substitute related education or experience for minimum qualifications must be addressed to The University of Mississippi's Department of Human Resources in writing, identifying the related education and experience which demonstrates the candidate's ability to perform all essential functions of the position.

Physical Requirements: These physical requirements are not exhaustive, and additional job related physical requirements may be added to these by individual agencies on an as needed basis. Corrective devices may be used to meet physical requirements.

- **Physical Exertion:** The incumbent may be required to lift up to approximately 100 pounds.
- **Vision:** Requirements of this job include close vision.
- **Speaking/Hearing:** Ability to give and receive information through speaking and listening.
- **Motor Coordination:** While performing the duties of this job, the incumbent is occasionally required to stand; walk; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crouch or bend; talk and hear; and use hands to finger, handle or feel objects.

Experience/Educational Requirements:

- **Education:**
  Graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent (GED).

- **Certification:**
  Obtain AALAS (American Association of Laboratory of Animal Science), ALAT (Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician) certification within 2 years of hire.

Background Check Requirement
This position requires a background check upon hire.

Interview Requirements
Any candidate who is called for an interview must notify the Department of Human Resources in writing of any reasonable accommodation needed prior to the date of the interview.

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