

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Senior Animal Technician
CLASSIFICATION: TO-2
DIVISION: Support
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 QIMR Act (1945). The mission of QIMR Berghofer is to promote the wellbeing of humankind through medical research, to maintain within the State of Queensland an internationally recognised Centre for Medical Research, to develop that Centre as the primary focus of Medical Research within the State and to co-operate with, and where possible assist the work of other medical research establishments within the State and throughout the world.

QIMR Berghofer's Support Division includes External Relations, Finance & Administration, People & Safety, Information and Facility and Scientific Services. The role of the Corporate Division is to provide support services to research staff to enable them to effectively conduct research and development.

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
- 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
- Establish and maintain colonies of research and production animals
- 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

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 and demonstrated knowledge of animal husbandry
- Proven and demonstrated abilities in animal handling techniques
- Proven experience in colony management and breeding processes
- 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 with contract research and associated compliance record keeping for Good Laboratory Practice
- Experience in laboratory techniques with sample preparation, analysis and reporting
- Experience training investigators and junior animal technical staff in common and complex laboratory animal science techniques
- Experience with infectious disease models and the genetics of breeding
- Hold DAWR Certification for quarantine containment