



VETERINARIAN

Title Code: 5150HP

DEFINITION

Under direction, performs high volume, high-quality spay/neuter surgeries, oversees perioperative care, diagnoses and treats medical conditions of shelter animals, vaccinates, and gives emergency treatment to impounded animals; reviews animal bite reports for rabies control; examines and tests for diseases of livestock; and does other work as required.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is a professional working level class responsible for overseeing, evaluating, and ensuring the quality of animal medical services. Veterinarian is distinguished from the next higher level of Director, Orange County Animal Care (OC Animal Care) in that the latter coordinates and oversees animal health care programs at the county animal shelter, and acts as the administrator of the Animal Care Program. The incumbent works within general instructions and guidelines, exercising discretion and independent judgment in the performance of duties.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Depending upon area of assignment, duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Performs high volume, high-quality spay/neuter surgeries of shelter animals, including dogs, cats, and rabbits.
2. Oversees pre- and post-operative care of animals, including pre-anesthetic exams to determine suitability for surgery, anesthesia, and recovery.
3. Diagnoses and treats medical conditions found on physical examination of shelter animals.
4. Vaccinates and gives emergency treatment to impounded animals; regularly reviews medical condition of animals quarantined at the shelter; gives follow-up treatment to injured animals as necessary; directs care and feeding of exotic or unusual animals.
5. Reviews animal bites and exposure reports concerned with rabies and other diseases; contacts citizens and officers involved and directs follow-up procedures.
6. Assists with public health duties as needed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases in the shelter and in the community.
7. Supervises assistants and oversees the clinical care provided by Veterinary Assistants and Registered Veterinary Technicians as needed.
8. Provides input on veterinary protocols.
9. Provides consultation and education to members of the public on regulations and medical aspects of animal care.
10. Participates in humane investigations, prepares written veterinary statements, and testifies in court as appropriate for animal welfare/cruelty cases.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of

- Current veterinary principles, practices, and techniques relating to sick or injured animals
- Rabies control laws
- Veterinary forensics and animal cruelty laws
- Shelter practices and population medicine
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations regarding health certificates and transport of animals
- High volume, high-quality spay and neuter techniques
- Bacteriology, pathology, serology, and other veterinary laboratory procedures
- Principles of public health related to animal carried diseases

Ability to

- Perform high volume, high-quality spay and neuter surgeries
- Diagnose and treat diseases among animals
- Apply animal care knowledge in a shelter setting
- Establish and enforce quarantine of animals
- Gather evidence in case of violation of rules and regulations
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; communicate in a manner that is both compassionate and informative when interacting with staff and with public
- Maintain records and prepare reports
- Supervise technical assistants
- Compose health certificates
- If required by Administrator, use a County-approved means of transportation to travel to work sites

Education and Experience

Graduation from an accredited school of veterinary medicine with a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

License/Registration

Possession of a valid license to practice as a veterinarian in the State of California.

Possession of, or eligibility to obtain, a National Accreditation Number from the USDA.

PHYSICAL, MENTAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical & Mental Requirements

Frequent sitting, walking, bending, and twisting of the neck; bending and twisting of the waist; squatting; simple grasping; reaching above and below shoulder level; and lifting and carrying of animals weighing up to 50 pounds. Standing for significant lengths of time. Continuous upward and downward flexion of the neck, and sufficient manual dexterity to assist in hands-on care of animals. Sufficient eyesight needed to conduct thorough examinations of animals. Handle, position, and move materials, equipment, and supplies. Handle position and restrain live animals of small and large animal species.

Perform a wide variety of routine medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting, including humane euthanasia and handling of sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive animals without fear. Function within significant time constraints, make rapid decisions in urgent situations, and meet deadlines. Complete required tasks/functions under stressful and unpredictable conditions, including emergency situations. Able to address emotional situations with pet owners.

Environmental and Working Conditions

Primary work location will be OC Animal Care Center clinic. Constant involvement with animals and continuous exposure to noise. Exposure to noise from animals in distress. Long periods of standing on hard floors. Potential exposure to heat, cold, and weather. Have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and learn the safe handling, restraining, and working with these animals.

CLASS HISTORY

Previous Revision: 09/04/1981
Previous Revision: 06/1970