

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

CLASS SPECIFICATION

7-11-02

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, 2369

Summary of Duties: Assists Veterinarians by performing routine subprofessional duties in the medical and surgical treatment and preventive care of animals at the City's Zoo, animal shelters, or spay and neuter clinics; performs euthanasia-by-injection and immunizations under the direction of a licensed Veterinarian; administers emergency medical treatment to injured animals; and does related work.

Distinguishing Features: A Veterinary Technician assists Veterinarians in animal surgery and anesthesia; prepares and administers medication to animals; maintains the supplies and equipment of the veterinary facilities at the City's Zoo, animal shelters or spay and neuter clinics.

A Veterinary Technician is distinguished from the classes of Animal Care Technician, Animal Keeper and Senior Animal Keeper in that the latter are primarily involved in the general care and feeding of animals, or in the supervision of such work.

A Veterinary Technician is distinguished from the classes of Veterinarian and Zoo Veterinarian in that the latter practice veterinary medicine at the full professional level.

Examples of Duties: A Veterinarian Technician

- Assists a veterinarian performing surgery on animals;
- Cleans surgical instruments and the operating room after surgery;
- Transports animals from Zoo quarters to a veterinary facility;
- Dismembers and disposes of animal carcasses;
- Prepares and catalogs ante/post mortem specimens;
- Arranges for shipping of animals to various institutions;
- Prepares instruments for surgery;
- Observes animals for physical and behavioral signs used in diagnosis and treatment;
- Mixes vitamin substances and medications, applies medications, and administers injections to animals in prescribed doses according to formulas and instructions;
- Maintains inventory for all pharmaceuticals at the veterinary facility;
- Maintains veterinary facilities, equipment, supplies and records;
- Catches and restrains dangerous animals using nets, ropes, specialized equipment or by hand;
- Applies to animals via skin or mucous membranes or injections minute amounts or drugs that are potentially lethal to humans;
- Feeds and cleans quarters of sick and quarantined exotic animals, some of which may carry diseases transmissible to humans;

- Restrains animals for x-rays and assists in x-ray developing;
- Implants microchips in domestic and exotic animals for identification purposes;
- Conducts microscopic fecal examinations for intestinal parasites;
- Sets up bacterial cultures;
- Prepares informational reports on animals in the Zoo's health center;
- Performs or assists in euthanasia on animals using intravenous injection or a bolt gun as designated by a licensed Veterinarian;
- Monitors sequestered animals for abnormalities;
- Vaccinates healthy animals against disease;
- Administers emergency first-aid treatment;
- Prepares the surgical site and assists the Veterinarian during surgery, including operating anesthesia equipment;
- Monitors animals during post-operative recovery period;
- Gives post operative care instructions to animal owners; and
- Works with and monitors veterinary students throughout the year.

May occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

Qualifications: A Veterinary Technician must have the following knowledge's and abilities:

Knowledge of:

- Zoological science and veterinary terminology;
- Techniques and methods of examination for the treatment or disposal of sick, injured, and dead animals;
- Procedures and equipment used at a veterinary facility;
- Symptoms, causes, and treatment of ailments, diseases and injuries of domestic and exotic animals;
- Use, care, and maintenance of surgical instruments and other equipment used in a veterinary facility;
- Use and control of veterinary pharmaceuticals.

The Ability to:

- Maintain records;
- Deal tactfully and effectively with employees and the public.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitation.

Minimum Requirements:

Two years of full-time paid experience as an Animal Keeper or Animal Care Technician for the City of Los Angeles, or two years of full-time paid experience in the care of animals, at least one year of which was in assisting a licensed veterinarian in the medical examination and treatment of animals.

License: A valid California driver's license and good driving record is required.

Certification:

A valid Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) certificate or a valid Animal Health Technician (AHT) certificate issued by the California Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine is required at the time of filing. The Registered Veterinary Technician certificate was formerly called Animal Health Technician certificate.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all the duties, responsibilities and required qualifications of any position shall be.