Veterinary Technician

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden located in Columbia, SC is home to more than 2,000 magnificent and fascinating animals and has one of the nation’s most beautiful and inspiring botanical gardens in the country. Riverbanks is one of the most successful zoological parks and gardens in the United States that welcomes over two million visitors each year.

We are looking for an experienced, energetic, detail-oriented veterinary technician to work with the Hospital team to provide support in the evaluation and treatment of animals. This position is responsible for sample collection, diagnostic testing, medical record entry, hospital cleanliness, and assisting in hospital and field procedures.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Assist veterinarians during medical procedures including set-up, and use of equipment and supplies, assist with chemical or manual restraint, monitoring patients, administration of treatments, production of radiographs, sample collection, record keeping, and observation of patients during recovery, breakdown and clean up after procedure.
- Assist in the daily care of ICU and neonatal patients, following protocols for patient care, monitoring, record keeping and sanitation.
- Actively and effectively communicate with other Riverbanks staff.
- Conduct all in-house laboratory analysis for hematology, chemistry, serology, cytology, parasitology, bacteriology and proper sample handling and processing for reference laboratories, long-term storage and research projects.
- As directed by the veterinarian, fill prescriptions, administer treatments and interface with keepers on administration instructions and compliance.
- Maintain pharmacy inventory including controlled drugs.
- Assist in the maintenance of the clinical supply inventory, including stocking and ordering; and in the proper maintenance of medical equipment, sterile supplies and surgical instruments.
- Assist with necropsies.
- Perform emergency treatment and triage of animals in the absence of the veterinarian and under their remote direction if available.
- Assist with wildlife triage, diagnostics and treatment for animals received through the BB&T Raptor Center as well as injured or orphaned wildlife found on zoo grounds.
- Assist with animal care and performs the duties of the hospital keeper in that person’s absence.
- Serve on emergency immobilization team and maintain readiness for animal emergencies including periodic dart preparation and darting practice.
- Input laboratory and treatment data into computerized medical records database; maintain established log books for in-house record keeping.
- Be able to work a flexible schedule which will include weekends and/or evenings and holidays.

ADDITIONAL JOB DUTIES

- Reports to work on declared inclement weather days.
- Works extended hours as needed for hospitalized patient care, emergency procedures, etc. Maintains “on-call” status, as needed.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; sit; use hands to handle or feel; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crouch,
or crawl; and talk or hear. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 25 lbs and occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 lbs.

- Performs other related duties as required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Position will involve exposure to inclement weather, dust, potentially dangerous and unpredictable animal species, zoonotic diseases, and potentially dangerous machinery, restraint devices and toxic chemicals and/or drugs. Occasional use of protective clothing or equipment is required (E.g. gloves, gown, mask, and goggles).

MINIMUM TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

- Applicants must be a graduate of an AVMA-accredited Veterinary Technology program and must be able to obtain a valid South Carolina Veterinary Technician License.
- One to two years of experience as a veterinary technician, zoo experience preferred, but not required.
- Must be licensed in the state of South Carolina within one year of start
- Must possess or be able to obtain a valid S.C. driver's license
- Excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Must be computer literate and have the ability to learn medical record programs such as ZIMS efficiently.

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Qualified candidates should apply online at www.riverbanks.org

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden is an Equal Opportunity Employer