



INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
PIRBRIGHT LABORATORY

Animal Technician- Post Ref: 09P/0039

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) is one of five research institutes of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and is at the forefront of research into animal diseases.

It is based on two sites: **Compton (near Newbury)** and **Pirbright (near Woking)** where this post is based. In total, the Institute employs some 400 staff and, at any one time, is host to up to 50 students and visiting scientists

PURPOSE

To undertake the daily care and welfare of experimental animals housed within Animal Services (ranging from cattle, sheep, pigs, mice, rabbits & guinea pigs) which may be housed in animal facilities to ACDP 1-3, ACGM 1-2 and SAPO 3-4 containment levels.

JOB DESCRIPTION

This position will be a dual role post and although predominately based in the Large Animal facility the post holder will be expected to work in any section of Animal Services as work dictates.

1. The post holder will be one of a team whose main task is the day to day care, welfare and general husbandry of stock and experimental animals within Animal Services i.e. feeding, cleaning, watering and health monitoring.
2. Working to a high standard of cleanliness using various pieces of equipment and chemicals. The cleaning, disinfecting and fumigation of rooms/buildings and equipment between experiments.
3. The preparation and feeding of diets.
4. Meticulous attention to detail including record keeping, document control and the ability to adhere to written methods & protocols.
5. Assistance with the restraint of animals for the collection of samples and other welfare procedures.
6. To be willing to undertake mandatory training and follow written instruction.
7. Post is key worker position, working alternate weekends on the agreed rota system.

The job description is only an outline of the tasks, responsibilities and outcomes required of the role. The jobholder will carry out any other duties as may be reasonably required by his/her line manager.

The job description and personal specification may be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the changing needs of the Human Resources Division and the Institute for Animal Health.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Essential

The Institute is engaged in Research work on a number of virus diseases of live stock, several of which, in particular foot-and-mouth disease, are highly infectious to livestock, therefore compliance with the Disease Security Regulations is an essential requirement of employment.

The Employee must not live on any premises where any cloven hoofed animals are kept, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats or deer, and must not visit any premises where such animals are kept within three days of entering the restricted area of the laboratory, or within five days of entering the restricted animal accommodation.

All employees shall actively participate in the IAH-wide quality assurance system in conjunction with the Institute Quality Manager. Employees are also expected to safeguard their own health and safety and security by following IAH policies and all employees are responsible for the Health and Safety and security of staff under their management.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Essential Criteria:

Formal qualifications are not required at band A but an enthusiastic interest or proven experience in the care and welfare of large animals will be an advantage. The applicant must live locally.

In addition, at band B applicants would be required to have:

- 5 GCSE's (or equivalent)
- Experience in the care working with large animals
- Knowledge of the care or large/small animals within a research environment
- Awareness of Health & Safety procedures
- The ability to drive and operate agricultural machinery as necessary, i.e. tractors, milk float and JCB (under license).
- Meticulous attention to detail- essential for the maintenance of section documents & records
- Flexible and willing to work as part of a team
- Have, or are willing to obtain a Home Office Personal License
- Applicant must live locally
- Flexible ability to work elsewhere in Animal Services if required.
- Excellent communication skills, verbal and written

Desirable:

- Agricultural qualification HND level
- Ability to operate agricultural machinery and equipment
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages- specifically for data input
- Experience of Quality assurance system

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information or an informal discussion of how the Institute operates and the challenges which will face the successful candidate please telephone or write to the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NF (tel.01483 232 441) or email pirbright.hr@bbsrc.ac.uk

BENEFITS OF THE POST

The post is graded at Band A/B dependent on qualifications and experience and is an indefinite contract. Starting salary for band A is £13,185 to £14,650 and band B is £16,400 to £18,222 depending on qualifications and on appointment plus extra duty allowance, you are eligible to join the Research Council's Pension Scheme. You have the choice of either:

- an attractive, index-linked defined benefit pension scheme that currently has a 3.5% member contribution rate. The bulk of the cost of this scheme is met by the employer: or
- A stakeholder pension with a contribution from the employer. Our basic contribution is based on your age, and we pay this regardless of whether you choose to contribute anything. You do not have to contribute if you do not wish to but, if you do, we will also match your contributions up to an additional 3% of pay.

Annual leave is currently 27 days on appointment plus 10.5 days public and privilege holidays. The Institute has a subsidised child care scheme, staff restaurant and free parking. This post currently works 42 hours a week Monday – Saturday, working additional overtime hours on every other Sunday. This post is a key worker position, the successful candidate will need to live locally.

Closing date: 10th March 2010