**Department of Human Resources**

**OPSEU Job Description**

**Job Title:** Animal Care Assistant

**Job Number:** SS-048

**NOC:** 3213

**Band:** 2

**Department:** Science

**Supervisor Title:** Manager, Animal Care

**Last Reviewed:** January 2, 2001

**Job Purpose**

The Animal Care Assistant provides service of cleaning the facilities, which includes any equipment used by animals in the department. This position also makes routine decisions on animal care, and is responsible for basic husbandry of vertebrates and invertebrates. Scheduling of hours is somewhat flexible to meet the needs of the successful incumbent and the department.

**Key Activities**

1. Responsible for feeding and watering of vertebrates and invertebrates associated with the Animal Care program.
2. Monitors the general health and well being of the vertebrates and invertebrates and reports to the Manager of Animal Care for further instruction where necessary.
3. Changes, washes and sterilizes cages, racks, aquariums; cleans corridors, floors, doors, walls, etc.; sterilizes equipment and removes garbage. Performs all duties according to established, standardized operating procedures.
4. Handles animals during the normal course of duties.

**Education**

Secondary School Diploma required.

**Experience Required**

1. Must have experience with animal care in a clinical environment; experience with animal science would be an asset.
2. Comfortable working with all species.
3. Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team.
4. Must be reliable.
5. Animal Care Facilities require seven-days-a-week attention; will be required to work weekends, holidays and during scheduled University closures.
6. Must be able to lift or carry a minimum of 50 pounds a short distance within the scope of the job.
7. Demonstrated skills in, and commitment to, customer service and continuous improvement.

**Communication**

Internal:

* Faculty or students, consult on the location of equipment or how to perform some duties as they check on projects over the weekend.
* Report any changes in animal condition to the Manager.

External

**Motor/ Sensory Skills**

* Dexterity, Coordination - Handling animals during cage cleaning
* Fine motor skills - Cleaning cages and delivering food and water
* Smell - Assessing what cages are a priority to clean - fine distinction required.
* Visual, hearing, smell, touch - Note any unusual markings or body secretions to assess animal health

**Effort**

Mental:

* Sustained attention - Required when changing cages to ensure animals don't escape.

Physical:

* Walking, bending, lifting, carrying - Physical effort required in carrying out waste from cages and bringing in fresh food and bedding. Water buckets, cages/aquariums, gravel, sand. Be able to lift and carry a minimum of 50 pounds.

**Working Conditions**

Physical:

* Exposure to dust/fumes - Cleaning cages leads to exposure to dust and fumes. Potential consequences include the development of allergies and respiratory problems.
* Potential for personal injury - Animal bites, stings, scratches by chance

Psychological:

* Repetition - Considerable amount of repetition in cleaning cages, feeding and delivering water bottles.
* Isolation - Isolation, closed in, no windows