

Job description

Vet Tech

Save the Chimps operates the largest privately funded chimpanzee sanctuary in the world. Located on nearly 150 acres on the Treasure Coast of Florida, the Sanctuary provides high quality clinical and lifetime care and enrichment for chimpanzees rescued from research laboratories, entertainment, and the pet trade.

Save the Chimps was established in 1997 and is home to over 225 chimpanzees. The work of the organization is accomplished by a nonprofit board of directors, more than 70 full-time employed staff, and a number of community volunteers.

Save the Chimps is looking for a Veterinary Technician to join our team. We are looking for a compassionate employee who is able to work both as a team member and independently. Applicants must be available to work full-time which may include one weekend day.

The following is a list of the job responsibilities. Veterinary technical proficiency is required, but primate experience is not. We are willing to train the right individual.

Essential Job Functions

Clinical Procedures

- Phlebotomy, blood typing
- IV catheter placement and IV fluid set-up and monitoring
- Intra-arterial catheter placement
- CRI calculations and syringe pump use and monitoring
- Induction, intubation, maintenance and monitoring of anesthesia including a detailed written anesthesia log
- Surgical prep, monitoring, recovery and post-op patient care
- Dental prophylaxis and dental surgical assistance
- Laboratory analysis of urine, feces and blood
- Preparation of biological samples for shipment to outside laboratories
- Dose calculation, preparation and administration of injectable medications

- Perform ultrasound-guided cystocentesis
- Perform 12-channel ECG
- Perform digital radiography, including dental, as directed by veterinarians
- Hand-injection of chimpanzees
- Remote injection of chimpanzees using pole syringe or dart
- Perform first-line case evaluation, triage wounds and inform veterinarians
- Set up, clean up and assist with post-mortem examinations; document examinations with photographs and written records
- Prepare post-mortem tissues for shipment
- Prepare drug cocktail for capture immobilization under veterinary supervision
- Load and charge darts for immobilization, clean darts after use
- Serve as an adjunct member of the STAT team, under direction of the veterinarian(s)
- Score and evaluate wounds
- Enter clinical notes into medical records
- Manage prescriptions
- Train chimps for medical procedures using operant conditioning
- Receive mortality injured or deceased wildlife; work with veterinarians to submit for any with chimpanzee contact for rabies testing

Animal Care

- Prepare and deliver chimpanzee medications to Care Technicians
- Maintain record of individual oral medication delivery method preferences
- Assist veterinarian(s) during daily care and observations of chimpanzees.
- Assist veterinarians(s) with medical rounds
- Become knowledgeable of resident chimpanzees' histories and personalities

- Other duties as required

Hospital Duties

- Maintain, clean and stock veterinary rooms and veterinary transport van
- Operate, calibrate and maintain all veterinary department equipment
- Maintain, clean, pack and sterilize all surgical, dental and necropsy instruments

Education and Work Experience

- Associates degree from AVMA CVTEA Accredited school of Veterinary Technician or commensurate experience preferred.
- Proficiency in veterinary technical and hospital management skills as listed above
- Minimum of 1 year of full-time clinical experience as a veterinary technician

Physical Requirements

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand for long periods of time; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; talk or hear; taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Able to drive and operate golf cart or other vehicles for use on sanctuary property.
- Must be able to run and swim in the face of danger.

Environmental Requirements:

Tasks are regularly performed with potential for exposure to adverse conditions, such as dirt, dust, pollen, odors, wetness, humidity, rain, temperature and noise extremes, machinery, vibrations, animals/wildlife. Employees must not object to unpleasant chimpanzee behaviors including spitting of water or saliva, throwing of feces, food or other waste, and chimpanzee displays that may include banging, kicking of the mesh barrier, and loud screams or hooting.

Work outside in inclement weather, if needed.

Save the Chimps is an equal opportunity employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

Must be able to pass a pre-hire drug screen and a criminal background check. Also due to the safety risk to the chimps, it is an essential function of the position to have received the COVID-19 vaccine series along with several other vaccinations and have a negative Tb test.