

# Veterinarian



## General Summary of Classification:

Provide diagnostic and preventative veterinary care services to animals housed at the shelter, livestock and other animals owned by the County, and the police canine unit; perform sterilization, dental and other routine surgeries and provide post-operative care; ensure vaccine protocol is followed, humane euthanasia practices are employed in compliance with all County, state and federal laws and regulations, and controlled substances are secured and recorded as required by law; performs related work as required.

## Examples of Primary Tasks, Duties and Responsibilities (TDR):

*NOTE: This is not a job description. The following examples are intended to be illustrative of the nature and scope of TDR that are typically assigned to positions in this job classification. Examples below are not all comprehensive. Actual assigned TDR may vary based on operational needs.*

- Examine animals housed at the shelter, and other animals owned by the County, and accurately identify and diagnose animal health issues; prescribe and provide appropriate testing, medications, treatments, rehabilitative care and referrals for animals; administer all required inoculations following vaccine protocol for animals housed at the shelter and the police canine unit; provide diagnostic and preventive care services, perform wellness exams, and maintain veterinary records for police canine unit; perform sterilization and other routine surgeries and provide post-operative care for animals housed at the shelter and the police canine unit;
- Maintain DEA certificate for controlled substances required for humane euthanasia, and secure and record all controlled substances in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations and requirements; recommend and administer humane euthanasia for animals based on medical condition and in compliance with established protocols and regulatory requirements in the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to State code and local ordinance;
- Provide consultation on cruelty and inadequate care cases, performing necropsy, examinations, testing for evidence and testifying in court as an expert witness;
- Provide training to shelter staff and animal protection officers on identifying of the signs and symptoms of illness and injury, appropriate restraint procedures, vaccinations, proper sanitation and cleaning protocols, and other relevant topics as needed;
- Performs other duties as assigned.

## Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA) Typically Required:

- **Occupation-specific:** Maintains a current and excellent working knowledge of local, state and federal laws and regulations governing the care, control, handling and disposition of a variety of domestic and companion animals; knowledge of protocols established by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians related to standards of animal care in animal shelters; demonstrated skill in the examination, accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment of wide variety of animal illnesses and injuries; sound financial skills to manage clinical operations within approved budget.
- **Technical:** Ability to proficiently use a computer and job-related software, applications, and wireless technologies for communications, animal tracking, medical recordkeeping, managing clinical operations and to complete assigned tasks.
- **Interpersonal, Communication and Customer Service:** Develops and maintains collaborative working relationships with shelter staff, area veterinary clinics, and other animal welfare stakeholders; ability to consistently communicate and interact professionally and effectively with diverse audiences in a wide variety of situations and circumstances; requires the ability to work independently and as part of a team and in frequently high-stress and emotional situations.
- **Decision-making and Authority:** Manages and provides all veterinary services for animal shelter and Police canine unit in support of the shelter's operational mission and to improve animal health and welfare.
- **Leadership:** Serves as the primary point of contact for veterinary services provided at the County's Animal Shelter; builds and maintains effective collaborative relationships with shelter staff and veterinary clinics; requires an astute awareness of legal and ethical issues as well as community expectations related to animal care and treatment.
- **Environment:** Works primarily at the County Shelter; may work in various indoor and outdoor locations and conditions as needed; works directly with various types of domesticated/companion animals with varying health needs; handles, diagnoses and treats animals with aggressive or other behavioral issues as needed; frequently high-stress environment.
- **Physical:** Sufficient visual and hearing acuity to examine, observe and accurately diagnose illness and injury in animals; physical agility to engage safely in all assigned duties and work directly with various types of animals with a wide array of demeanors, behavioral, physical, and health issues; ability to routinely lift 40-50 pounds.

## Minimum Education and Experience:

**Education:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD) from an accredited college of Veterinary Medicine;

**Experience:** One (1) year of professional clinical experience; veterinarian experience in a shelter setting preferred;

**OR:** Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities.

## Other Requirements (License, Certifications, Training, etc.):

- Current State of Virginia license to practice veterinary medicine.
- Current DEA license
- Valid driver's license to perform assigned duties at various locations.
- Criminal history record check and fingerprinting of all employees in authorized and hourly safety sensitive positions.
- Successful completion of NIMS ICS 700. Additional NIMS ICS training courses may be required.

NOTE: This is a class specification and not an individualized position description. A class specification defines the general nature and scope of duties and responsibilities of positions in a job classification Class specs are not intended to describe and does not list all of the job duties and responsibilities that may be assigned to a specific position in a job classification.