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**Job Description**

# Job Title: Veterinary Assistant

**Department:** VeterinaryClinic, Spay Neuter Clinic

**Classification:** Full time, non-exempt

**Job Relationship:** Reports to Clinic Manager or Spay Neuter Clinic Manager

**Position Summary:** A veterinary assistant is a professional whose job involves helping all types of animals live healthy and happy lives. Vet assistants use medical knowledge and clinical skills to provide routine nursing care under the direction of a veterinarian. Whether it’s facilitating well-check exams, administering laboratory tests, or assisting during surgery, vet assistants support veterinarians in meeting the diagnostic and treatment needs of sick and healthy animals.

**Essential Job Functions:**

* Cleaning and loading exam rooms
* Drawing vaccines
* Observing and reporting on the behavior and condition of animals
* Restraining animals for examination or treatment
* Preparing animals and instruments for surgery
* Collecting and recording animal case histories
* Educating animal owners on home care
* Assisting veterinarians and vet techs
* Laundry and cleaning
* Other duties as assigned

**Qualifications/Requirements:**

* Animal handling skills
* 1-2 years’ experience in a veterinary environment

**Knowledge and Skills:**

* Kennel/animal experience helpful
* Proactive, positive attitude

**Time Commitments / Expectations**

* 40 Hours per week
* Must be available to work weekends and evenings

**Working Conditions:**

Work is performed constantly in an animal shelter that operates seven days per week with exposure to animals, including some with questionable health and temperament concerns, high noise levels, zoonotic diseases, and cleaning agents. The person in this position needs to regularly move about the shelter to provide care to shelter and clients’ animals. Regularly operates a computer and other office equipment (i.e. calculator, copier, and printer). Occasionally positions self to handle animals of all sizes in a variety of areas and positions (low cages, high cages, on tables, on the floor, in vehicles, etc.). Constantly communicates with clients, staff members and volunteers who have inquiries and must be able to exchange accurate information in these situations. Occasionally moves animals weighing up to 50 pounds (i.e. through the shelter on leash or using other safe restraint and animal handling equipment, into and out of cages in the shelter, onto and off of exam tables).

**All GCHS employees are aware of the 5 Freedoms for Animal Welfare:**

* Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor
* Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
* Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
* Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind
* Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffer

Employee signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_