

Code: 3405

Title: CHIEF OF VETERINARY SERVICES

SUMMARY: Provides and directs professional veterinary services in the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) facilities. Plans, organizes, directs and manages all veterinary-related medical programs with the Animal Care area, and acts as advisor to the Board of Health for veterinary-related issues.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Directs all veterinary, pharmaceutical and clinical operations in the PACC facility;
Performs daily observations and examinations of impounded animals or directs other staff veterinarians or veterinary service providers to conduct such observations and examinations of impounded animals;
Provides the requisite veterinary services necessary to diagnose animal health-related issues, develops appropriate therapy/treatment regimens and administers first aid if necessary and/or directs and oversees the provision of such medical services by other PACC supervisors, staff veterinarians or veterinary service providers;
Examines/assesses impounded and found animals that have bitten humans for symptoms of rabies and directs quarantine and/or euthanasia and post-mortem analyses to determine presence/absence of rabies;
Documents animal welfare medical investigations and the identification of rabies in impounded or found animals, and assures proper notification of local/state health agencies, individuals who have been in contact with rabies-infected animals and their physicians, health-care and public health agencies;
Evaluates the activities of staff veterinarians or veterinarians providing veterinary services to the animal care activity/facilities;
Conducts animal alteration surgeries, or oversees those conducted by staff veterinarians or veterinary service providers;
Manages the training of staff on proper surgical procedures, animal evaluation and monitoring for pre-/intra-/post-surgical signs and symptoms;
Manages the training of staff on preparation of sterile surgery packs, animals and maintenance of sterile surgical fields;
Manages the control, security, record keeping and use of controlled drugs by staff and veterinary service contractors in the PACC and ensures conformance with Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations to maintain the facility and personal Drug Enforcement Agency licenses and permits;
Informs/advises/trains staff on animal care topics, which may include, but is not limited to, therapy and treatment of impounded animals, emergency veterinary techniques, husbandry, nutrition, preventive care, first aid, control/containment/preventive measures for communicable diseases in an animal shelter environment;
Trains/advises staff on principles and practices of animal restraint and chemical capture; detection, identification and disposition of animal welfare/cruelty cases;
Advises Animal Care Center, Public Health management and the Board of Health on all veterinary issues or aspects impacting County operations, public health and welfare;
Provides outreach briefings and presentations to boards, commissions and the public on veterinary issues and the PACC;
Develops and provides outreach veterinary services in response to identified/requested needs, which may include grant-writing;
May testify in court as an expert witness relative to veterinary issues related to PACC operations.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- principles, practices and techniques of the practice of professional veterinary medicine;
- principles and practices of domestic animal care and control;
- applicable laws, regulations and ordinances, including those of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), related to animal and rabies control and the practice of veterinary medicine, to include the control, security and record-keeping for controlled drugs used in PACC operations;
- local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations required to maintain the facility and personal Drug Enforcement Agency licenses and permits;
- Pima County Merit System Rules and Personnel Policies/Procedures;
- County contracting and procurement policies and procedures;
- principles and practices of personnel management and public and health administration;
- applicable principles and practices of disease control and public health.

Skill in:

- practicing veterinary medicine in an animal care environment;
- planning, coordinating and directing animal care programs and the work of subordinates;
- coordinating and administering veterinary service contracts and supervising contractors/service providers;
- communicating effectively, both orally and in writing.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

A current Arizona license to practice veterinary medicine (per A.R.S. 32-2215 *et seq*) and four years of experience in administration or supervision in veterinary care or medicine, animal care/control or a closely related field as determined by the appointing authority at the time of recruitment.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certifications: A current Arizona license to practice veterinary medicine (per A.R.S. 32-2215 *et seq*) and a current Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) license for the prescription and administration of controlled substances is required at the time of appointment and must be maintained as a condition of employment. All positions require a valid Arizona Class D driver license at the time of application. Failure to maintain the required licenses shall be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items: Within nine months of appointment, employees must receive the full series of pre-exposure rabies immunizations. Medical inability to be immunized or previous immunization must be verified by the County Physician prior to employment. Recommended boosters are required for the duration of employment unless medically excused or physiologically unable to develop immunity.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Physical and sensory abilities will be determined by position.

This classification specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the classification and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the classification perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.