



LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE



Employer Testimonials:



"The research field is a great career path with competitive salaries. Technicians are advocates for the laboratory animals, and their passion for humane animal care coupled with their skills and strong animal based knowledge makes them valuable members of the research team. One of the main goals of employers in the research field is to produce quality research, and this begins and ends with providing top notch animal care and use. Veterinary technicians have an essential role in achieving that goal."

—Theresa C. (Director)



"Veterinary technicians are often the missing link to having an effective Animal Care and Use Program. Licensed Veterinary Technicians are in a unique position to provide excellent regulatory oversight and advance their careers through laboratory animal medicine."

—Dr. Scott M. (Vice President)

"Veterinary technicians bring many important skill sets to the laboratory animal research environment. Their broad knowledge provides them with the foundation to develop into facility supervisors and managers; or, to become involved with and augment vital regulatory compliance functions."

—Dr. Christine L. (Associate Director)



"Veterinary technicians are a critical part of the research team. One of my earliest memories was trying to perform a minor procedure. After a couple of unsuccessfully attempts, the technician kindly said, "here let me help you"; and with that she proceeded to demonstrate a simpler and more effective way of performing the procedure. This ability of veterinary technicians, honed from years of training, experience and compassion, facilitates safe and humane animal care."

—James O. (University Veterinarian)



"Current and past veterinary technicians in this field have shown that they are competent and ethical team players who think proactively to find ways to improve the daily lives of the animals and their co-workers. The animals, veterinarians, and researchers all benefit from these individuals."

—Dr. Scott P. (Director)



Laboratory Technician Testimonials:



As an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) coordinator, I play a vital role in ensuring a high-quality animal care and use program that reflects our institution's commitment to the humane and responsible use of animals.

I began my career as an RVT in private practice, but wanted more of a challenge. I accepted a position at the local university as an anesthesia nurse at the vet school. My VT instructor was right when she said that the best salaries were working in research!

—Tina, RVT, RLATG from a university in Georgia



For 10 years, I worked as a vet assistant in private practice, eventually becoming an RVT in a vet hospital. I felt the growing pains of the vet tech profession – our technical skills were not used to their fullest. I helped establish a vet tech association in my state to promote our profession, to encourage full use of a VT's skills, and to offer continuing education to technicians in our state.

Eventually, I found my calling: working with animals in research. I am fully using my skills. I'm an advocate for the animals. And, when I pass a cancer patient on the street, or when a friend calls me worried about their diabetic dog, I'm reminded that I'm helping to advance both human and animal medicine.

—Sandy, RVT, LATG from a Veterans Administration facility in Georgia



As an LVT, I proudly worked in a large mixed practice veterinary hospital. In time, I wanted a different challenge within the realm of veterinary medicine. I jumped into the field of lab animal medicine where I could fully use my job skills. I continued to perform many of the same duties of general practice and also gained new, more advanced skills, along with opportunities to work with a variety of animal species. Currently, I am AALAS certified as a registered Laboratory Animal Technologist and have been employed in this field since 2000.

—Lisa, LVT, RLATG from a university in Washington

science

research

care

discover

health

cure

heal

Veterinary Technicians Who Choose Laboratory Animal Science:

- Obtain advanced skills and specialized training
- Earn a competitive salary with opportunities for advancement
- Participate in cutting-edge research in a scientific environment
- Work with a large variety of animal species
- Make a difference in the lives of animals and people every day

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) is the premier forum for the exchange of information and expertise in the care and use of laboratory animals. Since 1950, we've been dedicated to the humane care and treatment of laboratory animals and the quality research that leads to scientific gains that benefit people and animals.

AALAS is dedicated to building and disseminating a knowledge base in laboratory animal science for the education and training of those who work in this field. Through our education, career development, scientific journals and publications, web resources, and outreach, AALAS advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.

Laboratory animal technicians are an essential part of the research team and provide compassionate attention to the animals in their care. AALAS is committed to technicians and offers them a variety of products and services to help them excel in their jobs.

Find out more about technicians in research by visiting the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) website at www.aalas.org, or send an e-mail to info@aalas.org.

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An alternative career choice
for Veterinary Technicians