

Level I – Entry Level Laboratory Animal Caretaker/Cage Washer

BASIC SUMMARY:

Perform procedures in the facility cage wash area to include sanitization and sterilization of caging equipment and supplies, operate and perform minor maintenance on cage wash equipment, and perform general housekeeping tasks

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Review, comprehend and comply with all standard operating procedures pertaining to specific operational areas and duties
- Follow facility and cage wash area entry procedures to include appropriate disinfection of items entering the facility and proper use of personal protective equipment
- Operate equipment (e.g. bulk autoclaves, tunnel washers, rack washers, bedding dispensers, water bottle fillers) and use supplies necessary to accomplish assigned tasks
- Monitor and perform minor preventive maintenance on equipment. Conduct tests to document effective function of equipment
- Process cages, carts, cage racks, water bottles, environmental enrichment devices and other caging components and accessories through the rack washer, tunnel washer and autoclave
- Ensure that adequate quantities of sanitized +/- sterilized caging equipment and supplies are consistently available to support animal husbandry needs
- Prepare disinfectant solutions for use in the animal facility
- Perform general housekeeping services. Duties include sweeping and mopping floors in corridors and support areas (e.g. cage wash areas, storage areas, procedure rooms)
- Collect and process animal facility waste and animal carcasses for proper disposal
- Receive and store equipment and supplies
- Monitor quantities of supplies (e.g. food, bedding) to ensure adequate stocks at all times
- Maintain and rotate feed and bedding supplies
- Maintain accurate records of completion of required duties in support areas as required by facility
- May participate in animal husbandry tasks to include animal health observations and checking quantities of food and water in cages
- Should be able to periodically and comfortably lift, push and/or pull 50 lbs. weight and spend significant time each day on his/her feet
- Participate in holiday and weekend duty rotation for animal care and husbandry
- Perform other duties as assigned
- Maintain required attendance level and adherence to assigned work schedule

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **Education:** High school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED) required
- **Experience:** Zero to 3 months or more of animal care experience in an animal facility or similar environment required
- **Certification/Licensure:** May require AALAS ALAT certification within 1-2 years of hire

Annual Salary Range*			
Level I	Minimum	Mean	Maximum
Non-AALAS Certified	\$24,980	\$29,933	\$34,323

* Salary and benefits information obtained from "Laboratory Animal Facility Compensation Survey 2008," New England region, copyright 2008. Benefits typically include medical, vision, dental, disability and life insurance; savings or retirement plan; and continuing education.

EMPLOYMENT: Colleges, universities, medical & dental schools, veterinary schools, research hospitals, research institutes, biotechnology firms, pharmaceutical firms, medical device firms, contract research organizations, government agencies