



A Career in Caring

Laboratory Animal Science



Make a Difference



Upcoming International Laboratory
Animal Technician Week Dates:
2003 – February 2-8
2004 – February 1-7
2005 – January 30-February 5

See reverse side for more information!

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Committee on Technician Awareness and Development
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE
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Wanted:

Lab Animal Science Professionals

Dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of millions of people and animals by joining a profession devoted to medical research. Respect for animals is a must. Individuals must be reliable and committed to the health and well-being of animals involved in research, testing, and education. Excellent salary and benefits plus opportunities for advancement.

Sound challenging? Then a career in laboratory animal science is for YOU! Laboratory animal science is a field that offers the challenge of scientific knowledge combined with a compassion for animals. The field of laboratory animal science offers many career options—laboratory animal technicians, veterinarians, research scientists, facility managers, nutritionists, engineers...just to mention a few.

What is Laboratory Animal Science?

Laboratory animal science is a field of science devoted to the production, care and study of laboratory animals used in biomedical research and education. It is a large field comprised of professionals from many scientific and educational disciplines such as anatomy, animal science, comparative biology, engineering, environmental science, ethics, genetics, microbiology, pharmacology, physiology, and toxicology. Professionals within this field have a deep sense of purpose and are dedicated to helping society and improving the lives of people and animals alike.

What types of jobs are available?

There are a variety of career opportunities within the field of laboratory animal science. There are positions for everyone—from those looking for an entry level position requiring no college education to those with advanced college degrees. Some examples of positions you may find in this field are:

Cagewashers are responsible for cleaning and maintaining equipment necessary for the positive outcome of all research performed, thus making them one of the most important positions in the animal facility. Duties may include:

- sanitizing and/or sterilizing animal caging and equipment
- operating and maintaining washers and other sanitization and/or sterilization equipment
- performing preventive maintenance and maintaining service records on racks and caging equipment

Earnings: \$17,000-\$28,000*

Laboratory Animal Technicians provide the daily care for the animals used in biomedical research. Duties may include:

- caring for animals to include daily observation, feeding and watering, exercising, and providing environmental enrichment
- maintaining clean animal quarters and equipment
- assisting veterinary and research staff with animal procedures such as collection of biological samples and administration of medications and treatments
- maintaining animal records
- receiving and storing materials and supplies

Earnings: \$18,000-\$38,000*

Animal Health Technicians provide support to the veterinary staff within a facility. Duties may include:

- administering medications and treatments, collecting biological samples, performing diagnostic laboratory procedures, and taking radiographs

- operating and maintaining anesthesia equipment, providing pre- and post-operative care of animals, and assisting in surgery
 - maintaining and storing medical and diagnostic supplies
- Earnings: \$28,000-\$39,000*

Facility Supervisors/Managers/Directors provide the day-to-day supervision and overall management of laboratory animal care personnel and the animal facility. Duties may include:

- assuring standard operating procedures are current and accurate and that occupational safety procedures for animal care are followed
- handling personnel actions such as hiring, promotion, and discipline
- assuring overall facility compliance with federal, state, and local regulations

Earnings: Supervisors - \$34,000-\$49,000*

Managers - \$50,000-\$73,000*

Directors - \$110,000-\$148,000*

Clinical Veterinarians provide the daily veterinary care for all research animals. Duties may include:

- planning, conducting, and following up on research projects
- developing, implementing, and controlling procedures related to acquisition, maintenance, quarantine, and disposition of all research animals
- providing support to management and other divisions regarding animal health issues

Earnings: \$74,000 - \$106,000*

Not all of the jobs within laboratory animal science deal directly with animals. Many jobs are available making or selling products that are used in research facilities such as caging, animal feed and bedding, equipment, and enrichment products. People in these jobs may never come in direct contact with the animals, yet they play critical roles in the overall research process. Some of these job titles include:

- Marketing specialists
- Manufacturers
- Engineers
- USDA inspectors
- Animal behaviorists
- Regulatory compliance officers
- Statisticians
- Sales representatives
- Grant writers
- Security officers
- Computer specialists
- EPA liaison

*Based on the 2002 AALAS Laboratory Animal Facility Compensation Survey. Salaries vary depending upon the job, education and training, level of experience, and geographical area of the country.

Where can I find a job?

A very diverse group of employers await your application! Rewarding positions can be found with any of these potential employers:

- biotechnology firms
- commercial vendors
- contract laboratories
- government/military agencies
- pharmaceutical companies
- biomedical engineering companies
- university and academic institutions

Is this the field for me?

A career in laboratory animal science requires a person who enjoys working with animals and is genuinely concerned for their welfare. Animals must have care seven days a week, including weekends and holidays, so dependability and reliability are important.

Entering into the field, you should be prepared with a basic knowledge of science and math and should be able to communicate effectively. Then, once in the field, AALAS offers a technician certification program based on your experience, education, and time in your position. AALAS certification is internationally recognized as endorsement of technical competence in the field of laboratory animal science. AALAS also offers a variety of informational and training materials, local, district, and national AALAS educational events, and an online jobs classified service to give AALAS members the opportunity to be the best in their area of endeavor.

So, is a career in laboratory animal science for you? To find out, answer these questions:

- Do you have respect for animals?
- Would you enjoy the potential of working with a variety of animal species every day?
- Would you like to help save human lives by finding cures and treatments for medical diseases?
- Would you enjoy discovering new methods to help make your pets healthier?
- Do you want to make sure household products are safe for the public to use?
- Do you want the satisfaction of knowing you have a crucial role in the advancement of science?

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, then laboratory animal science may be the field for YOU!

Come join the thousands of professionals already in the field of laboratory animal science and help make a difference!

Contact AALAS for more information on careers in the field of laboratory animal science:



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The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) and our affiliate supporter, the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), announce the annual event created to recognize laboratory animal technicians around the world for their essential contribution as members of the research team.

AALAS is a nonprofit organization providing educational and informational support to professionals in the laboratory animal science field. Since 1950, AALAS has been dedicated to the responsible care and treatment of laboratory animals and to the quality research that leads to scientific gains that benefit both people and animals.

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