

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title:	Veterinary Officer (Laboratory Diagnostician Intern)
Position number:	Generic
Classification:	Specified Calling Level 2 (Non-CP)
Physical location:	Perth Metropolitan Area
Award:	PSA 1992
Agreement:	PSCSAA 2022
Pillar:	Sustainability and Biosecurity
Directorate:	Biosecurity
Branch:	DPIRD Diagnostics and Laboratory Services

Reporting relationships

Reports to:	Senior Veterinary Pathologist (70220014), Specified Calling Level 3 This position
Direct reports:	Nil

Role summary

This section provides a brief summary of the key functions of the position.

Under general guidance and utilising independent judgment:

- Undertakes veterinary diagnostic duties and scientific activities in the laboratory.
- Utilises veterinary laboratory diagnostics skills in the investigation, diagnosis and reporting of animal diseases in veterinary species, including surveillance for emergency animal diseases, emerging diseases, residue incidents and endemic disease diagnosis.
- Performs gross pathological examination of animal tissues, coordinates diagnostics submissions, interprets and integrates laboratory results and provides input into comprehensive reports to internal and external stakeholders.

- Contributes scientifically valid diagnostic and surveillance data to support WA and national animal health monitoring and market outcomes, including surveillance for conditions of state and national significance.

About us

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) role is to ensure that primary industries and regions are key contributors to the Government's agenda for economic growth and diversification, job creation, strong communities and better places. Our goals are to:

- **Protect:** to manage and provide for sustainable use of our natural resources and soils, and to protect Western Australia's brand and reputation as a reliable producer of premium, clean and safe food, products and services.
- **Grow:** to enable the primary industries sector and regions to increase international competitiveness, grow in value and social amenity and become a key pillar of the State's economy.
- **Innovate:** to support a culture of scientific enquiry, innovation and adaptation across primary industries and regions to boost industry transformation, economic growth and employment.

Our values

Our values are critical in creating a healthy and dynamic culture that helps each and all of us to make our best contribution, to develop a workplace where we feel excited about our work and results and where other people will increasingly want to join our team. Our values underpin how we operate:

- **Working together** – We achieve better outcomes with our colleagues, stakeholders and the community by engaging with their ideas, knowledge and expertise.
- **Acting with integrity** – We foster a culture where individuals are accountable for their actions, behaviours and contributions.
- **Responding with purpose** – Our actions and reactions are intentional, well thought out and align with a specific objective or goal.
- **Embracing curiosity and creativity** – There is always space to be innovative, through curious and creative thinking.
- **Aspiring for a better future** – Our combined efforts deliver sustainable results – environmentally, socially and economically.

Key responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the role include, but are not limited to, the following:

Animal Pathology

- Undertakes animal disease investigations using veterinary skills and laboratory techniques and resources.
- Undertakes and records surveillance for animal diseases of national and state significance under general direction.

- Remains prepared to recognise and respond to exotic disease incursion, emerging diseases, residue issues, zoonoses or other significant conditions of animals.
- Communicates requirements and outcomes of laboratory testing to relevant clients including internal and external stakeholders.
- Assists with quality assurance, continuing education activities and observes laboratory procedures to help maintain DDLS NATA accreditation and professional competency.
- Meets communication requirements particularly with regard to animal disease and laboratory diagnostics.

Research and Development

- Provides veterinary expertise to prepare information for seminars, workshops and field days as required.
- Conducts project work meeting project milestones, agreed outputs and reporting requirements.
- Maintains an up-to-date knowledge and awareness of relevant research, development findings, issues, and trends.
- Develops effective relationships with relevant staff members and stakeholders; promote technology, services and resources that are available.
- Contributes to test development, validation and implementation.

Strategy Planning and Policy Development

- Provides veterinary input into strategic planning and other planning processes regarding animal health and laboratory practice.
- Participates in the development and production of strategic animal health research and policy across the Department.
- Provides assistance to operational areas in translating strategic animal health policy into relevant local policy and strategies.

General

- Prepares draft reports, summaries and general correspondence as required.
- Participates in emergency responses as required.
- Consistently delivers quality outputs relevant to the DPIRD strategy for veterinary activities.
- Participates in incident and emergency management activities commensurate with capability, capacity, training and level of experience.
- Other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Knowledge and experience in veterinary species including performing gross pathology examinations; selecting specimens for diagnostic laboratory testing and interpreting and applying laboratory data in disease diagnosis.
2. Knowledge of emergency animal diseases and their controls, and the ability to apply research, conceptual and analytical skills, sound judgement and problem-solving techniques to these.
3. Understanding of reporting requirements, to various stakeholders such as the public, industry groups and Government, with competent use of ICT applications such as databases, spreadsheets, and word processing.

Core capabilities

4. *Build effective relationships:* Well-developed verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills, both verbal and written, including the ability to consult, advice and convey information to stakeholders to achieve strategic outcomes.
5. *Challenge for innovation:* Demonstrated ability to investigate and apply research and contemporary best practice approaches.
6. *Think strategically:* Well-developed conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide practical solutions to challenging issues and problems.
7. *Deliver in a changing environment:* Well-developed ability to plan, prioritise and organise work in line with organisational goals and project outcomes, and communicate changing priorities to team.
8. *Lead and empower others:* Ability to lead teams and work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of team goals.

Desirable criteria

1. Experience providing veterinary services, including field diagnostics and disease management, to commercial livestock or aquatic species.
2. Experience in use of laboratory diagnostic techniques in disease investigation in a wide range of veterinary species, including domestic livestock, wildlife and aquatics.

Special requirements/equipment

- A degree in Veterinary Science (obtained from an Australian university or recognised equivalent), and current recognised registration (or able to obtain prior to

commencement) with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Western Australia – registration must be maintained whilst employed by the department.

- A current and valid Western Australian C-A (car) class driver's licence, or equivalent is required (if not currently held, must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense).
- An acceptable National Police Certificate (police clearance) is required (if not currently held, must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense)
- The contract of employment specifies terms and conditions relating to this position.
- Occasional travel to and from metropolitan and regional offices may be required.
- DPIRD is an Emergency Management Agency and all employees may be required to work or travel during, or outside of, normal business hours to assist with incidents and emergencies.

Certification

The details contained in this document are an accurate statement of the duties, responsibilities and requirements of this position.

Delegated authority

Position title: Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity

Endorsement Date: 8 January 2024