Animal Defense League
Surgical Veterinary Technician

Job Summary:
This position is responsible for providing surgical care for all animals as defined by best practices and Standard operating procedures by the Animal Defense League. The Surgical Veterinary Technician carries out designated care, treatment, and other processes as defined by assigned role and as directed by the Veterinarian. The Surgical Veterinary Technician is the Veterinarian’s primary medical support person. They begin the examination procedure by verifying medical history to identify requirements needed at the time of surgery. They aide the Veterinarian in achieving greater efficiency by relieving them of technical work and administrative detail when needed. Must be able to perform multiple tasks in a fast-paced and, at times, emotional environment; work with a team of surgical staff and adhere to protocols. It is ADL’s culture that all employees operate in a courteous and professional manner. The surgical veterinary technician position reports to the Hospital Medical Manager.

Job Requirements:
• 1-2 years of experience working as a Surgical Veterinary Technician preferred
• Veterinarian technician certification is preferred
• Experience administering intravenous and intramuscular injections
• Experience intubating animals of all sizes in an efficient and safe manner
• Some experience in anesthesia is required and a willingness to learn and adhere to all protocols
• Ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment, handle fluctuating priorities and multiple projects
• Must be able to have a flexible schedule

Essential Job Functions:
• Ensure wet room patients are stable and do not need immediate attention
• Assist the veterinarian by setting up procedures immediately upon arrival, helping maintain the flow of patients, adhering to standards that keep animals safe and comfortable, and keeping medicine prep area clean and organized
• Ability to efficiently sedate patients, and ensure the Surgical Patient Prep Technician is prepared to intubate animals immediately upon sedation and prepare all patients for surgery
• Administer medications and vaccinations as needed, and help maintain clinical records in shelter database
• Takes inventory and prepares shelter supply order on a weekly basis for Hospital Manager
• Ensure cleanliness and sanitation of wet room throughout the day and surgical pack preparation as assigned to ensure there is an adequate amount for the following day
• Ability to prepare 20-60 (on average) dogs and cats per day
• Work well independently and also as part of a team to perform responsibilities listed
• Must be able to recognize characteristics of animal behavior (for example: be able to identify fearful behavior) so proper handling techniques can be utilized to ensure staff and animal safety at all times
• Must be able to use appropriate safety equipment for fractious or feral animals
• Monitor patient throughout surgery, adjusting oxygen and isoflurane, communicating with Veterinarian about any abnormal occurrences
• Works with and explains veterinary care to customers and clients
• Performs related duties and fulfills responsibilities as required

Knowledge, skills and abilities:
Knowledge of animal behavior and handling skills, knowledge of shelter disease common in our geographical area. Proficient with data entry and computer usage. Knowledge of high volume sterilization protocols.

Physical demands and working conditions:
Physical requirements include frequent lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds and greater. Subject to climbing, kneeling, lifting, sitting, standing, stooping, bending, and walking to perform the essential functions. Working conditions are inside and outside with frequent exposure to temperature variations, hazardous chemicals, noise, dirty environment, confining work space and unfavorable odors.