



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

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JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Technician (Animal Behaviour)				
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	College of Science, Department of Life Sciences				
<b>LOCATION</b>	University of Lincoln Campuses				
<b>JOB NUMBER</b>	COS958	<b>GRADE</b>	5	<b>DATE</b>	January 2023
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Principal Investigator				

**CONTEXT**

The post holder will be based in the Animal Behaviour, Cognition and Welfare Research Group to work on a project investigating novel ways to assess odour perception in dogs.

**JOB PURPOSE**

The successful candidate will support the research team by preparing and conducting behavioural experiments involving dogs. This includes providing training and support for the owners whose dogs are taking part in the study. The role also involves the coding and processing of behavioural, and potentially physiological data, in readiness for statistical analysis.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

General
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liaise with volunteers to build a relationship and provide training advice.</li><li>• Write detailed but accessible instruction sheets and guidance material.</li><li>• Conduct behavioural tests with an appropriate degree of autonomy.</li><li>• Extract and save videos in a timely manner.</li><li>• Code behavioural videos using the coding scheme provided and adapt where necessary.</li></ul>
Preparation of Experiences, Machinery and Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up equipment and provide assistance in conducting the experiments.</li><li>• Ensure good laboratory practice processes and standard operating procedures are both developed and adhered to.</li><li>• Maintain animal welfare and safety by ensuring that the dogs are handled appropriately before, during and after each experiment.</li><li>• Liaising appropriately with volunteer owners about their dog as needed.</li></ul>
Demonstration of Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate to others practical procedures and techniques relating to the handling and control of dogs in the research setting.</li><li>• Produce detailed written instruction sheets, training videos and guidelines for others to use in the laboratory.</li><li>• As required, introduce individuals to the laboratory and tailor the research process, within specified boundaries, to the differing needs of the individual participants.</li></ul>
Provision of Technical Advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide technical advice to others as required to facilitate the safe and effective implementation of experiments or use of the laboratory equipment.</li></ul>
Liaison and Networking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where directed by your Line Manager, attend and contribute to internal and external working groups or committees.</li><li>• Build and maintain relationships with colleagues across the University and external parties, e.g. academic collaborators, suppliers, contractors, etc.</li></ul> <p>Maintain confidentiality of procedures and data as required.</p>

<b>Maintenance and Repair of Equipment/Apparatus</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and repair equipment and where needed liaise with external companies to oversee its repair or replacement.</li> </ul>
<b>Collation of Results</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extract all files at the end of each session and save them to the proper location.</li> <li>• Code behavioural data from videos recorded during the experiment using appropriate software (e.g. BORIS).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Development of Methods of Testing and Practices</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use feedback from the experimental process to develop new or improved methods of testing procedures.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Safety</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure safety regulations are followed.</li> <li>• Instruct participants and visitors to the laboratory in safe working practices.</li> <li>• Oversee activities in the labs to ensure safety protocols are implemented and followed.</li> </ul>
<b>Stock Control and Ordering</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the resources of the laboratory.</li> <li>• Source suppliers and new equipment.</li> </ul>

**In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Scope and dimensions of the role

This role involves being part of a multidisciplinary research team investigating odour perception in dogs. As such you must be able to work closely with dogs in a safe and humane way. You will also be working with a range of odours from a range of sources, and so must show good laboratory practice, e.g. to avoid cross-contamination. .

You will work as part of a team, but be responsible for ensuring that volunteer animal owners are appropriately identified and recruited as well as for participant liaison prior to, during, and after the study.

You will also be involved in the preparation and execution of the experiments and in the coding of behavioural data in readiness for statistical analysis.

#### Key working relationships/networks

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head of School</li><li>• Health and Safety Officers</li><li>• Research team</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant academic and professional groups</li><li>• Relevant national, regional and international networks including sponsor</li></ul>



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PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<b>Essential (E) or Desirable (D)</b>	<b>Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)</b>
<b>Qualifications:</b>		
Degree level qualification or equivalent experience	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Experience:</b>		
Previous experience of working in a laboratory / workshop environment	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
Ability to prepare an area for behavioural research involving dogs	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
Previous experience coding behaviours e.g. using BORIS or similar software	<b>D</b>	<b>A</b>
Setting up and basic management of computer equipment	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Skills and Knowledge:</b>		
Spreadsheet and statistical software management skills	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
Good written & verbal communication skills to enable explanation of technical issues and processes	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Excellent knowledge and practical ability regarding dog handling and training	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Accuracy and reliability in performing behavioural experiments	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Ability to carry out and document tasks in an organised, methodical manner with attention to detail	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Excellent organisational and administrative skills	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Ability to keep and manage good records, particularly in relation to digital media and database files	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Management of confidential information	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Video editing	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
<b>Competencies and Personal Attributes:</b>		
Enthusiastic and flexible approach to work	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Effective team worker, with accurate evaluation of own competencies and limitations	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Proactive and able to demonstrate initiative to solve basic technical problems or seek help as appropriate	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Prepare laboratory odour samples in accordance with good laboratory practice	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>

Ability to operate under conditions where odours from a range of sources are present	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Ability to appropriately liaise with pet owners and build positive relationships to maintain long term engagement with the study	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Business Requirements:</b>		
Able to liaise effectively with external stakeholders	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>

**Essential Requirements** are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

<b>Author</b>	DM	<b>HRBA</b>	AH
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