



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION**

JOB TITLE	Technician (Animal Behaviour)				
DEPARTMENT	College of Science, Department of Life Sciences				
LOCATION	Lincoln Campuses				
JOB NUMBER	CHS200	GRADE	5	DATE	March 2025
REPORTS TO	Principal investigators Prof. Daniel Mills				

CONTEXT

The post holder will be based in the Animal Behaviour, Cognition and Welfare Research Group to work on a project evaluating a supplement designed for aged dogs on signs of Canine Cognitive Dysfunction / cognitive impairment.

JOB PURPOSE

The role involves providing technical support (practical research support, data processing, diary scheduling etc) to a Post Doctoral Research Associate responsible for leading the day-to-day research on the project, as laid out within our contract with the sponsor. They are not expected to operate as an independent researcher.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

General

- Liaise with volunteers to build a relationship and provide advice about the nature of the project and expectations of participants.
- Write detailed but accessible instruction sheets and guidance material for owners.
- Conduct behavioural tests outputs with an appropriate degree of autonomy.
- Administer psychometric and other survey instruments effectively in a timely manner based on a predefined schedule
- Extract and edit data relating to activity with an appropriate degree of autonomy.

Preparation of Experiences, Machinery and Equipment

- Set up equipment and provide assistance in conducting the experiments.
- Ensure good clinical practice processes in relation to clinical trials and standard operating procedures are both developed and adhered to.
- Maintain animal welfare and safety by ensuring that the dogs are handled appropriately before, during and after each experiment.
- Liaising appropriately with volunteer owners about their dog as needed.

Demonstration of Procedures

- Demonstrate to others practical procedures and techniques relating to the handling, training and control of dogs in the research setting.
- Produce feedback materials for owners and other undertake other measures to help keep owners motivated to take part in an extended trial.
- As required, introduce individuals to research procedures and tailor the research process, within specified boundaries, to the differing needs of the individual participants.

Provision of Technical Advice

- Provide technical advice to others as required to facilitate the safe and effective implementation of experiments or use of the laboratory equipment.

Liaison and Networking

- Where directed by your Line Manager, attend and contribute to internal and external working groups or committees.
- Contribute to team meetings your own observations and thoughts.

- Build and maintain relationships with colleagues across the University and external parties, e.g. academic collaborators, suppliers, contractors, etc.
- Maintain confidentiality of procedures and data as required.

Maintenance and Repair of Equipment/Apparatus

- Maintain and repair equipment and where needed liaise with external companies to oversee its repair or replacement.

Collation of Results

- Extract and clean data files and save them to the proper location.
- Produce summary descriptive statistics of data.

Development of Methods of Testing and Practices

- Use feedback from the experimental process to develop new or improved methods of testing procedures.

Health and Safety

- Ensure safety regulations are followed.
- Instruct participants and visitors to the laboratory in safe working practices.
- Oversee activities in the labs to ensure safety protocols are implemented and followed.

Stock Control and Ordering

- Monitor the resources of the project.
- Source suppliers and new equipment.

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 the effect of a supplement designed for aged dogs on signs of Canine Cognitive Dysfunction / cognitive impairment.

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 data in readiness for statistical analysis.

Key working relationships/networks

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



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

JOB TITLE	Technician in Animal Behaviour	JOB NUMBER	CHS200
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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
Degree level qualification or equivalent experience	E	A
Experience:		
Previous experience of working in a research environment	E	A
Ability to prepare an area for behavioural research involving dogs	E	A
Previous experience of managing complex diaries / schedules relating to multiple participants in order to maintain a predefines schedule	D	A
Data extraction from large spreadsheets	E	A
Skills and Knowledge:		
Spreadsheet and statistical software management skills	E	A
Good written & verbal communication skills to enable explanation of technical issues and processes	E	A/I
Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills	E	A/I
Excellent knowledge and practical ability regarding dog handling and training	E	A/I
Accuracy and reliability in performing behavioural experiments	D	A/I
Ability to carry out and document tasks in an organised, methodical manner with attention to detail	E	A/I
Excellent organisational and administrative skills	E	A/I
Ability to keep and manage good records, particularly in relation to digital media and database files	D	A/I
Management of confidential information	D	A/I
Extraction and handling of data from biometric behavioural equipment (e.g. sensor based systems)	D	A/I
Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Enthusiastic and flexible approach to work	E	I
Effective team worker, with accurate evaluation of own competencies and limitations	E	A/I
Proactive and able to demonstrate initiative to solve basic technical problems or seek help as appropriate	E	I
Operate in accordance with good laboratory and clinical practice	E	A/I
Ability to plan and thus predict changes in workload requirements associated with multiple subjects	E	I

Ability to appropriately liaise with pet owners and build positive relationships to maintain long term engagement with the study	E	I
Business Requirements:		
Able to liaise effectively with external stakeholders	E	A/I

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.

Author	DM	HRBA	AH
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