AUBURN
Human Resources

Vet Hospital Social Worker

Job Description

JOB INFORMATION

Job Code	IA28
Job Description Title	Vet Hospital Social Worker
Pay Grade	VT08
Range Minimum	$47,970
33rd %	$57,560
Range Midpoint	$62,360
67th %	$67,150
Range Maximum	$76,750
Exemption Status	Exempt
Approved Date:	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM
Legacy Date Last Edited	12/9/2022

JOB FAMILY AND FUNCTION

Job Family:	Veterinary & Animal Care
Job Function:	Vet Operations

JOB SUMMARY

The Veterinary Social Worker provides emotional support to clients (animal owners) and staff, short-term interventions, and psychoeducational programs. Serves as a liaison between clients and the veterinary care team to facilitate communication of clients' questions and concerns as well as understanding of the medical care plan.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides emotional support and grief counseling to clients of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital regarding their animal's health diagnosis, medical treatment, quality of life, and end of life assessment. Provides referrals to community mental health professionals as requested to clients, faculty, staff, and students.
- Aids clients and veterinarians in ethical decision-making processes regarding veterinary care of animals through participating in direct client-veterinarian interactions, including some after-hours consultations with clients.
- Provides group grief counseling for clients through the establishment and maintenance of a grief support group.
- Mediates challenging communications between clients and veterinary care team.
- Provides continuing education presentations for University faculty, staff, and professional veterinary students on topics such as human and animal bond, grief and loss, working in teams, managing difficult client and workplace interactions, association of animal abuse and domestic violence, developing resiliency, maintaining wellness, compassion fatigue, improving client access to veterinary care, and communication.
- Maintains and develops a resource list of therapists in the area who are interested in providing animal loss and grief counseling support for clients. Provides education to referring veterinarians and community groups about the human and animal bond, grief and loss, association of animal abuse and domestic violence, compassion fatigue, and improving client access to veterinary care.
- Presents to community groups about veterinary social work services as needed.

The responsibilities listed above show the typical duties for jobs in this classification. Actual tasks may differ depending on the department's needs. Other similar duties may be assigned with discretion of the supervisor. Not every duty will apply to every position, and the amount of time spent on each task can change based on department needs.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisory Responsibility	May be responsible for training, assisting or assigning tasks to others. May provide input to performance reviews of other employees.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible, an individual must meet all minimum requirements which are representative of the knowledge, skills, and abilities typically expected to be successful in the role. For education and experience, minimum requirements are listed on the top row below. If substitutions are available, they will be listed on subsequent rows and may only to be utilized when the candidate does not meet the minimum requirements.

MINIMUM EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Education Level	Focus of Education		Years of Experience	Focus of Experience	
Master's Degree	Degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field.		1 year of	Experience in grief, bereavement, and/or trauma counseling in medical social work, PTSD, hospice, or mental health settings. Experience in a veterinary hospital is desired.	

MINIMUM KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES

Ability to become familiar with animal laws within Alabama and surrounding states.	
Knowledge of the human and animal bond.	
Ability to maintain confidentiality and uphold the NASW Code of Ethics.	
Ability to demonstrate sensitivity to cultural differences as they relate to program and service delivery.	
Ability to work independently.	
Ability to provide services within a fast paced and highly emotional setting.	
Ability to provide and receive feedback professionally.	
Strong attention to detail, organizational skills, and the ability to multi-task to meet deadlines.	
Effective communication skills to manage relationships.	
Self-motivated and collaborative.	
Comfortable in a hospital setting, at ease while being in close contact with animals as well as observing medical interventions, exams/procedures, extreme injuries, and death.	

MINIMUM LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Licenses/Certifications	Licenses/Certification Details	Time Frame	Required/ Desired	
LMSW - Licensed Medical Social Worker - State Licensure	Licensed Social Worker in the state of Alabama	Upon Hire	Required	And
LCSW- License Clinical Social Worker	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Upon Hire	Desired	And
	Veterinary Social Work certificate is desired.	Upon Hire	Desired	

PHYSICAL DEMANDS & WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands Category:	Other

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Physical Demand	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Constantly	Weight
Standing				X		
Walking				X		
Sitting					X	
Lifting	X					
Climbing			X			
Stooping/ Kneeling/ Crouching			X			

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Physical Demand	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Constantly	Weight
Reaching			X			
Talking					X	
Hearing					X	
Repetitive Motions				X		
Eye/Hand/Foot Coordination				X		

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Working Condition	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Constantly
Extreme cold			X		
Extreme heat			X		
Humidity			X		
Wet			X		
Noise			X		
Hazards			X		
Temperature Change			X		
Atmospheric Conditions			X		
Vibration			X		

Vision Requirements:

Ability to see information in print and/or electronically.