



Reproductive Research Assistant

BRANCH: Wildlife & Science

SALARY: \$30.43/hour

Basic Function: Reporting to, and receiving guidance and direction from the Manager of Reproductive Sciences, this position is responsible for assisting with new and ongoing service and research projects in the Zoo's Reproductive Sciences Unit. This position will have a focus on embryology and cell culture. This position will assist and provide support in implementing the Strategic Plan.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintain the laboratory and its equipment in proper order to optimize accuracy and efficiency.

Maintain laboratory inventory and order supplies.

Organize collected data into laboratory notebooks and computer files.

Perform preliminary interpretation of experimental results including descriptive statistics.

Diagnose and solve problems in laboratory systems, including enzyme immunoassays and other analytical procedures.

Prepare standard operating procedures for routine and experimental laboratory functions.

Collect, process and analyse samples for reproductive and stress hormone concentrations using enzyme immunoassays for new and ongoing endocrine service and research projects.

Prepare and administer hormonal treatments.

Collect, morphologically assess and freeze gametes, embryos and cells from species of interest.

Assist in procedures for reproductive technologies, including artificial insemination, embryo collections and transfer, and oocyte collection and culture.

Liaise with Wildlife & Science staff to organize ongoing research projects.

Assist in communicating results and their significance to Wildlife & Science staff using both oral and written means.

Train and assist interns, graduate students, visiting scientists and post doctoral fellows to carry out laboratory techniques.

Communicate with external researchers to develop, employ or learn new techniques for the research program or to initiate collaborative projects.

Initiate and carry out individual projects of interest in collaboration with curatorial, veterinary and other Conservation, Education & Wildlife staff, under the guidance and direction of the Manager of Reproductive Sciences.

Performs literature searches in preparation for publication of research material or for initiation of new projects.

Deliver education programs and presentations to interested groups.

Work in a safe manner at all times in compliance with the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act, WHMIS legislation and Toronto Zoo Safety Policy and immediately report all accidents and hazards to his/her Manager.

Follow all Branch policies and procedures.

Other related duties as requested by Manager.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must have a Master of Science degree or Bachelor of Science degree in biology, zoology, animal science or a related field with three (3) years related experience.

Must have a knowledge of conservation issues and the role of biotechnology.

Must have practical laboratory experience, particularly with enzyme immunoassay, cell culture, or genetics.

Practical experience with animal care and restraint an asset.

Must be able to independently perform routine duties within a service and research laboratory.

Must possess a demonstrated ability to initiate and carry out research projects with minimal supervision.

Demonstrated ability to publish in peer reviewed journals an asset.

Demonstrated ability to prepare and receive funding from grant applications an asset.

Public speaking skills and experience an asset.

Must be proficient in the use of computerized programs and systems, including MS Word, Excel, E-mail and PowerPoint.

Must have working knowledge of Workplace Hazardous Information System (WHMIS) legislation, the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Toronto Zoo Safety Policy.

CANDIDATES MAY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A WRITTEN AND/OR PRACTICAL EXAMINATION RELEVANT TO THE POSITION.

If interested in this position, please submit your resume and cover letter to*:

hr@torontozoo.ca

*Please state "Application for Reproduction Research Assistant" in the subject line of your application.

While we appreciate the interest of all applicants, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Toronto Zoo provides accommodation for employees with disabilities, as defined under the Ontario Human Rights Code. If contacted for an interview, and you require specific accommodation for the interview process because of a disability or a medical need, then please advise the person contacting you of your requirements, so that arrangements can be made for the appropriate accommodations to be in place before you begin the interview process.

The Toronto Zoo respects the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion and seeks to model these principles in all that we do. We are committed to fostering an inclusive workforce where all employees feel respected, supported and valued. We strive to create an environment that represents the rich diversity of our guests and our community and encourage applications from all qualified individuals who can contribute to enhancing our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. Applications are especially encouraged from racialized persons/persons of colour, Indigenous/Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and women.

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