
Auburn University Job Description

Job Title: **Vet Hospital Social Worker**

Job Family: No Family

Job Code: **IA28**

Grade VT08 \$42,000 - \$67,200

FLSA status: Exempt

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.

Essential Functions

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Provides group grief counseling for clients through the establishment and maintenance of a grief support group.
4. Mediates challenging communications between clients and veterinary care team.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Presents to community groups about veterinary social work services as needed.
8. May perform other duties as assigned.

Supervisory Responsibility

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

The above essential functions are representative of major duties of positions in this job classification. Specific duties and responsibilities may vary based upon departmental needs. Other duties may be assigned similar to the above consistent with the knowledge, skills and abilities required for the job. Not all of the duties may be assigned to a position.

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Minimum Required Education and Experience

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Focus of Education/Experience</u>
Education	Master's Degree	Degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field.
Experience (yrs.)	1	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.

Substitutions allowed for Education:

Indicated education is required; no substitutions allowed.

Substitutions allowed for Experience:

Indicated experience is required; no substitutions allowed.

Minimum Required Knowledge

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.

Certification or Licensure Requirements

Licensed Social Worker in the state of Alabama is required. Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Veterinary Social Work certificate is desired.

Physical Requirements/ADA

Occasional and/or light lifting required. Limited exposure to elements such as heat, cold, noise, dust, dirt, chemicals, etc., but none to the point of being disagreeable. May involve minor safety hazards where likely result would be cuts, bruises, etc.

Routine deadlines; usually sufficient lead time; variance in work volume seasonal and predictable; priorities can be anticipated; some interruptions are present; involves occasional exposure to demands and pressures from persons other than immediate supervisor.

Job frequently requires standing, walking, sitting, talking, hearing, handling objects with hands, .

Job occasionally requires reaching, climbing or balancing, stooping/kneeling/crouching/crawling, and lifting up to 10 pounds.

Vision requirements: Ability to see information in print and/or electronically.

Date: 12/9/2022
