

Sanctuary Veterinary Technician / Veterinary Nurse (Large Animal)

This is your chance to work for one of less than a handful of globally accredited sanctuaries for farmed animals in the world. Our mission is to provide heaven on earth for farm animals with nowhere else to turn. We inform, inspire, and empower the community, especially children, on ways in which we can better care for ourselves and the environment while helping animals in need. We advocate for a kind and compassionate lifestyle that protects animals, the earth, and our own health. Indraloka is looking for a Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse who is experienced, knowledgeable, and passionate about the care of rescued farm animals. This person will be essential to our growing animal care team.

The incumbent will lead Indraloka's transition to an integrative medical approach to animal care, with an emphasis on prevention and well-being. She/he will work closely with Veterinarians, the Animal Care Manager, and the caregiving team to provide medical care to all animals under the care of Indraloka Animal Sanctuary. Duties encompass a wide array of tasks including but not limited to medical record management, communication, and all aspects of veterinary nursing care. They must be able to work independently and perform a majority of tasks with minimal or no guidance.

Responsibilities

- Communicate professionally with veterinarians and their staff as well as with sanctuary management and team members
- Follow policies and procedures set by the Founder and Animal Care Manager, recommend revisions or additions to policies and procedures as needed
- Act as liaison between Veterinarians (internal and external), Sanctuary Management, and Caregivers regarding the health, status, and welfare of all sanctuary residents
- Apply medical skills associated with all aspects of farm animal well-being, such as: following treatment sheets, recognizing and communicating changes in patient status, common and specialized diagnostic procedures, and alternative medicine
- Lead Indraloka's transition to an integrative medical approach to animal care, with an emphasis on prevention and well-being. Identify opportunities to transition from allopathic medicine to holistic treatments, and identify when such transitions are not feasible or appropriate
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and train staff on integrative veterinary medicine
- Assist veterinarians with more advanced procedures
- Work with caregiving team to maintain general health or emergency situations regarding the sanctuary animals
- Develop, implement, and teach SOPs related to general health and potential emergencies that may be experienced by rescued farm animals
- Participate in rescues, rehabilitation, and behavior modification of aggressive or fearful animals as needed, in order to ensure that the team is safely able to provide them with optimal care
- Perform necropsies to establish causes of death, develop and implement SOPs / systems to address all preventable causes, teach the team to follow these systems

- Correctly calculate and administer fluid therapy and pain medication, clean and dress wounds, and stabilize injuries until the animal can be assessed by the veterinarian
- Provide surgical support, for example: using sterile technique, assisting intra-operatively, performing surgical induction, giving postoperative care, recognizing anesthetic complications, perioperative monitoring, and operating specialized equipment
- Perform nursing care, triage, phlebotomy, lab work, IV catheter placement, radiology, ultrasound, wound management/bandaging, fluid maintenance, injectable and oral medication administration, laser treatment, intubation/extubation, monitoring and maintenance of anesthesia, basic suturing, etc.
- Perform, solely or in conjunction with a Veterinarian, special procedures including: chemotherapy, blood transfusions, maintaining feeding tubes/chest tubes/urinary catheters, dentals, critical care of medical and surgical patients, physical therapy, and in some medically necessary cases, euthanasia
- Perform above medical skills while following strict quarantine/isolation protocols
- Perform laboratory testing and basic interpretation: cbc, chemistry panels, T4, urinalysis/fecal analysis (multiple species), ear cytology, PT/PTT, blood smears, facilitate outside lab work, etc.
- Have a working knowledge of medical conditions, terminology, and treatments for common conditions faced by farm animals in sanctuary settings, develop SOPs and train staff on implementation
- Have sound mathematical knowledge of Veterinary medicine in order to properly dose medications and fluids
- Triage and provide follow through care (including ongoing treatments, medications, and follow-up) for routine and specialized medical and surgical patients
- Provide medical care for animals that have significant behavioral issues, which can include but is not limited to shyness, fearfulness and aggression
- Independently perform proper and humane medical restraint techniques for multiple species
- Write and deliver customized continuing education classes for co-workers supporting job related responsibilities
- Act as an animal caregiver when veterinary medical skills are not called upon
- Remain on call for emergencies after shifts and on weekends
- Other duties as assigned

Skills And Experience

- Passionate commitment to Indraloka's mission, and vision
- 5+ years experience working in a Veterinary clinic or sanctuary hospital, or prior experience as a Veterinary Technician, Veterinary Nurse, and relevant education
- Knowledgeable in integrative veterinary medicine
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment with demonstrated ability to juggle multiple competing tasks and demands

- Demonstrates personal accountability to ensure that all responsibilities are completed effectively and in a timely manner
- Demonstrates approachability when dealing with the general public
- Experience interacting with the general public (customer service) preferred
- Demonstrates ability to create and encourage a positive work environment
- Strong interpersonal skills, i.e., ability to develop positive relationships with others and demonstrate sensitivity to the thoughts, feelings and perspectives of others
- Accurate, appropriate, clear and concise written and verbal communication skills
- Strong listening skills
- Experience with or ability to learn Microsoft Word and Excel, google calendar, docs and email
- Able and willing to professionally advocate Indraloka position on issues
- Willing to work on weekends/holidays/varying shift times and on-call shifts as required
- Must want to work to further your own learning by asking questions and doing research
- Able to effectively advocate for a vegan lifestyle
- Experienced in caring for rescued farmed animals
- Happy working in solitude, but also comfortable working with others
- Disciplined; Cooperative; Gentle; Compassionate; Kind; Reliable; Consistent
- Able to work independently
- Extremely observant and able to notice and communicate subtle changes in animals' appearance and behavior
- Terrific with humans, and will enjoy giving tours, training/coaching others, and helping out with events
- Open-minded and willing to learn (even when new information contradicts previously held beliefs)
- Organized; Motivated; Calm under pressure
- Committed to environmental responsibility

Physical Requirements

- Ability to lift and handle animals of varying sizes and species, bending, stooping, and walking on a daily basis
- Must be able to perform strenuous manual labor. Ability to stand for long periods of time while performing work requiring concentration and manual dexterity
- Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions, with temperatures ranging from below freezing to above 100 degrees
- Must be able to bend, stoop, hike, walk, kneel, and lift
- Able to come into regular contact with common allergens including soy, nuts, seeds, peanuts, and bees

This is a dirty job involving heavy physical labor. It is also intense, emotionally challenging work. The Veterinary Technician / Nurse will work weekends and some holidays, and s/he may be asked to work overnight to care for the animals.

If you are the right person for the job and give it your all, you will have limitless potential. You will only love this job if you truly love other animals and are committed wholeheartedly to their liberation.

Competitive compensation package includes paid time off, 401K plan, health, vision, dental and life insurance. The incumbent will begin work in our Mehoopany, PA location, transitioning to our Dalton, PA location over the next two years. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to jobs@indraloka.org.

7/13/20