

## Associate Veterinarian

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### Grade: 12

**Reports to:** Chief Veterinarian  
**Job Status:** Exempt, Full-Time

**Department:** Husbandry  
**Approval Date:** September 2019

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### Job Summary:

The Associate Veterinarian is responsible for assisting the Chief Veterinarian in the health management of the living population at the South Carolina Aquarium, with special emphasis on fishes, small mammals, birds and reptiles, and the rehabilitation patients in the South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtle Care Center. He or she will work closely with the animal care staff and involve them whenever possible. The Associate Veterinarian will assist the Chief Veterinarian with coordination of medical cases, clinical research, and education. He or she may accept primary responsibility for medical cases as decided by the Chief Veterinarian. They will also assist with the purchasing and maintenance of all equipment and supplies, ensure legal and safety compliance for all veterinary operations (e.g. controlled substances, radiology), and assist with the development and execution of the aquarium's preventative medicine protocol.

### Essential Functions:

- Continuously evaluate and implement changes when necessary for a comprehensive preventative animal medicine program that promotes animal welfare
- Assist the Chief Veterinarian with medical case management, including diagnoses, treatment, surgery, and postmortem/pathological examinations
- Help train and educate Veterinary Assistant(s)
- Rotate on call schedule with Chief and backup veterinarians for 24-7 coverage of the living collection and sea turtle strandings, ensuring appropriate alternate veterinary coverage prior to any absences
- Assist with the medical care and regulatory compliance of the South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtle Care Center and work with external partners to facilitate sea turtle conservation
- Perform routine rounds of exhibit and back-up animals and their enclosures
- Be responsible for routine quarantine administrations and exams (fecals, blood smears, skin scrapes, etc.)
- Assist the Chief Veterinarian with research and conservation projects
- Assist with health certificates, animal transfers, and acquisitions
- With the help of the Husbandry staff, develop animal diets
- Maintain a medical records system (TRACKS) that is organized and up to date
- Assist in the development of a budget, make purchases, control expenses within budgetary guidelines, and ensure adequate stock of all supplies
- Provide daily interaction with animal care staff for education, communication, and hands-on procedural training
- Encourage and be supportive of hands-on staff involvement with procedures, examinations and diagnoses (including information gathering from colleagues)
- Collaborate often with other departments on exhibit development, public education and information sharing

- Maintain legal and AZA compliance for all lab operations and equipment (e.g. oxygen storage, vaccinations, licenses and certifications) and maintain up to date written protocols
- Be responsible for proper use and regulatory compliance of controlled substances
- Maintain up to date knowledge of recent advances in veterinary medicine
- Adhere to the South Carolina Aquarium Policies

### **Other Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Participate with Aquarium wide strategic planning and exhibit development
- Serve as a member of the SCA Animal Care Committee
- Provide timely medical program reports for curatorial staff and committee meetings
- Represent the Husbandry department on Aquarium teams and in professional associations
- Travel occasionally to conferences and seminars and as possible support on animal transports
- Liaise with professional colleagues on a regular basis to develop a support network that can be called upon to help provide assistance when necessary
- Attend regularly scheduled meetings
- Daily contact with staff at all levels including interns and volunteers
- Provide support for the mission by participating in Aquarium sponsored programs and events on a regular basis
- Provide lead for veterinary student (intern) involvement
- Support research activities that support the Aquarium's mission
- Perform public relations function at all levels, including the presentation of clinical research findings through publications and conference presentations
- Be actively involved in identifying grant opportunities and grant submittals
- Perform additional duties as requested

### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Proficient in a variety of clinical tasks including blood, fecal and urine sampling and analysis, bacteriological culturing, microscopy
- Experience or willingness to learn advanced imaging and clinical techniques including onsite computed tomography, endoscopy, and ultrasonography
- Familiarity and advanced understanding of aquatic life support systems and water quality
- Strong knowledge of aquatic biology and clinical pathology
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Exceptional interpersonal skills along with a mastery of written and verbal communication (presentations, guest interaction, and staff engagement will be required)
- An affinity for animals and the capacity to make decisions based on the best interest of the animal, collection or species
- Capacity to take control in an emergency with a calming demeanor and quickly make decisions
- Capacity to empathize and work with staff to provide the best possible care for the living population
- Self-motivated, goal oriented, and able to work independently
- Budget preparation and management skills
- Ability to argue persuasively and build consensus in a team oriented environment
- Goal oriented with proven ability to establish priorities and meet deadlines

### **Education and Experience Required:**

- DVM or VMD degree from accredited university

- Prefer attendance in AquaVet 1 and/or externship through Florida Tropical Aquaculture Lab (University of Florida) for 4 or more weeks or similar fish/aquatic invertebrate supplemental education
- Preferred 1 year experience with sea turtle rehabilitation

### **Licenses and Certifications Required:**

- License to practice veterinary medicine in State of South Carolina within three months of hire date
- Driver's License
- USDA/APHIS accreditation type two for health certificates
- Will obtain a DEA and SC controlled substances license

### **Supervision of Others:**

Possibility of supervising veterinary assist, veterinary externs, Husbandry/Sea turtle interns, graduate students, volunteers, staff, etc. as deemed necessary by the Chief Veterinarian and/or Director of Husbandry.

### **Physical Requirements:**

Average walking, standing, bending/stooping/crouching, climbing ladders, carrying up to 50 lb, sitting, kneeling, balancing, pushing and pulling, crawling.

### **Working Conditions:**

- Irregular hours and working nights and weekends required
- 24/7 emergency availability required (will need to carry mobile phone)
- Normal office environment
- Contact with Aquarium guests
- Contact with Aquarium contractors, vendors and business associates
- Travel required
- Must be flexible with schedule.
- Exposure to elements such as sun, hot, cold, dirty, noisy, wet, frequent temperature changes, poor lighting, etc.

**The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not construed to be an exhaustive list of all job duties performed by the personnel classified.**

**The Aquarium is an "at-will" employer, and as such, employment with the Aquarium is not for a fixed term, or definite period and may be terminated at the will of either party, with or without cause, and without prior notice.**