

27/07/23

Volunteer Animal Technician

Venomtech Ltd is a biotechnology company specialising in the supply of venom and venom products, for scientific research purposes. We work mainly with the biopesticide, drug discovery, and cosmetics industries. We are looking to recruit a number of volunteer laboratory technicians, to gain experience of working with the animals in our venom lab. Full training will be given regarding the safe management of venomous animals and venom extraction. To apply with a CV and covering letter, or to request more information, please contact info@venomtech.co.uk

Role: Volunteer Animal Technician	Reports To: Senior Technician
Location: Discovery Park, Sandwich, UK	Hours: Negotiable
<p><u>Key Accountabilities:</u></p> <p>Venom Library and Laboratory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that you are appropriately motivated, trained and empowered to be responsible for your day-to-day activities. • Help to maintain the invertebrate collection in optimum health for, and assist with, venom collection. • Maintain a clean working environment and check stocks of essential items in the laboratory for smooth running. • Help to ensure that a sufficient stock of venom is maintained, in an appropriate form, ready for supply to colleagues and records are kept up to date. • Assist Venomtech staff in ensuring that the appropriate health and safety policies are in place and followed in the laboratory. 	<p><u>Key Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>Teamwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist scientific staff in making sure animals are ready for venom collection. <hr/> <p>Records Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain accurate records of all work. • Be aware of GDPR obligations and implement any actions necessary. <hr/> <p>Professional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to gain skills in animal husbandry, data collection and management, as well as general laboratory techniques. <hr/> <p>Time Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum requirement of one day a week, for three months, but open-ended, for the right candidates.

Person Specification

Essential

- Aged 18 years +
- Able to commit to a minimum of one day a week, for a minimum of three months.
- Comfortable working with large spiders and scorpions, after training.
- An interest in exotic animals, particularly invertebrates, and/or animal husbandry.

Preferred

- Some experience of working with exotic animals, particularly invertebrates.
- Some experience of working in a laboratory setting.

Role Summary

- Maintain animal species required by the company. These will be principally but not exclusively venomous invertebrates. To keep accurate records of the husbandry and breeding data such that venom extraction can be completed effectively.
- To perform duties appropriate to the position of volunteer laboratory technician and actively seek ways to improve animal husbandry appropriate to the species being worked with which may include satisfactory completion of scientific research as required.
- Maintain the laboratory in optimal conditions including regular cleaning, stock checking and performance checking of critical instruments such as balance, pipettes and DS-11 spectrophotometer.

Animal Duties:

- Welfare checks: record health and feeding status, check humidity and temperatures, etc.
- Assist in venom collection plan with scientific staff which ensures that species and/or venom stock are aligned to project and strategic needs.
- Seek ways to improve husbandry and venom yields in the lab.
- Maintain legal compliance with all applicable legislation including HS(AW)A, and the Nagoya Protocol.
- Assist in ensuring that the animal and venom library delivers high quality products and services to its internal and external customers.

Laboratory Duties:

- Ensure the laboratory is kept suitably clean and in good working order.
- Ensure that waste is appropriately segregated and disposed of in a timely manner.
- Keep communal stocks of lab consumables ready for use e.g. (waste bags, cleaning materials, pipette tips.)
- Take any appropriate opportunity to understand more about the uses of venom. Contribute effectively to discuss work and future plans and raise any issues.