

Position Classification Flysheet for Animal Health Technician Series, GS-0704

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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes all positions that primarily involve performing technical work concerned with animal health in support of veterinarians or veterinary medical programs. The duties performed include inspection, quarantine, identification, collection of specimens, vaccination, appraisal and disposal of diseased animals, and disinfection for the control and eradication of infectious and communicable animal diseases. Performance of the work requires a practical knowledge of normal and certain abnormal animal health conditions, agency policy and guidelines applicable to the work, and related animal health laws and regulations.

This series coverage standard is new.

EXCLUSIONS

1. Classify positions that require professional knowledge of veterinary medicine in the [Veterinary Medical Science Series, GS-0701](#).
2. Classify positions that primarily involve performing technical work associated with the [Biological Sciences Group, GS-0400](#), in the appropriate specialized series. See the [Biological Science Technician Series, GS-0404](#); the [Range Technician Series, GS-0455](#); or other appropriate series.
3. Classify positions primarily concerned with riding horses and using lariats to, for example, round up stray and trespass livestock, count livestock, or haze horses or cattle to designated enclosures in the [Livestock Ranching/Wrangling, 5035 Series](#).
4. Classify positions primarily concerned with providing care for animals, such as grooming, feeding, and watering in the [Job Grading Standard for Animal Caretaking, 5048](#).

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

Animal health technicians supplement and support the work of veterinary medical officers or veterinary medical programs (for additional information on the general nature of veterinary medical work, see the introductory material of the [Veterinary Medical Science Series, GS-0701](#)).

Depending on the organization where they work, animal health technicians may be concerned with any of a variety of animals, including common pets, livestock, and poultry, and any of a variety of animal illnesses or diseases including brucellosis, tuberculosis, scabies, hog cholera, scrapie, and broken bones.

In some organizations technicians are primarily concerned with directly assisting in the medical care of animals, including surgery. In other organizations they are primarily concerned with performing compliance work, including animal identification and assuring adherence to laws and

regulations related to such concerns as quarantine restrictions, import-export prohibitions, and biologics control.

Animal care inspectors enforce compliance with provisions of animal welfare legislation concerned with the proper treatment of laboratory and exhibit animals, as well as animals owned by or in the custody of such parties as commercial pet breeders, dealers, and handlers.

Regardless of the mission of an organization, animal health technicians are most commonly found in first level units and are principally concerned with performing work supporting the implementation of projects and program goals. They may be specialists in specific subject matter or specialty areas or in the techniques and practices associated with production oriented work.

TITLES

Animal Health Aid is the authorized title for all positions at grade GS-3 and below.

Animal Care Inspector is the authorized title for all positions at GS-4 and above that are primarily concerned with assuring that animals are cared for as specified under animal welfare legislation.

Animal Health Technician is the authorized title for all other positions at grade GS-4 and above.

Work Leader Positions. Add as a prefix the word Lead to the title of positions that meet the criteria of the [General Schedule Leader Grade Evaluation Guide](#).

Supervisory Positions. Add as a prefix the word Supervisory to the title of positions that meet the criteria of the appropriate [supervisory guide](#).

Agencies may supplement the basic titles by adding a parenthetical suffix, where necessary, to identify duties and responsibilities that reflect specific knowledges and skills required in the work.

GRADING POSITIONS

The Animal Health Technician Series, GS-0704, is a one grade interval series for purposes of personnel administration. Additional information on the nature of aid and technician work is contained in The Classifier's Handbook and such other OPM issuances as the [Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technician Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-0400](#). However, no specific grading criteria is provided. Users should employ cross series comparison procedures and apply comparable technician grading criteria, such as that found in the above guide, as appropriate.