

“Caring for animals involved with research...”

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Animal Technician

Name: Sherry Tetland

Company: Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), University of Saskatchewan

Salary Range: \$30,000 to \$60,000 per year



What I do:

In my position, I care for animals involved with research. My work involves vaccinating, collecting samples, and basic animal care and scheduling.

I work at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), a non-profit research facility owned by the University of Saskatchewan. The facility is located on the campus and the work is completed in outlying areas, which are similar to a traditional farm setting.

What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

I completed a five-week practicum at the facility when I was a student at the SIAST Kelsey campus in Saskatoon. I found the work very enjoyable and decided to apply for a position.

A Veterinary Technology diploma is the standard degree for my position. Candidates should have good animal-handling techniques and technical-skills knowledge of animal models and bio-containment.

Since the hours can be long and unconventional, a good work ethic is important for this job. You also require excellent recording and observation skills to conduct research, and the ability to work alone and in a group.

What are the best parts of your job?

I really appreciate the sheer variety of tasks that I need to accomplish each day. It keeps the job interesting.

Most people find it interesting that I work with animals everyday, and the variety of species that are located at the facility. The facility maintains an extremely high standard in animal care and it can be very physical.

After almost seven years, I still truly enjoy my job.