

Histology Technician (Veterinary Pathology) – Maternity Cover



IZVG Pathology is currently seeking to recruit an experienced Histology Technician to provide maternity cover. This is a full-time role working under the supervision of a Senior Histology Technician.

IZVG Pathology is a leading provider of post mortem and histopathology services for zoo, wildlife, exotic pet and aquatic species, and has been providing these for veterinarians, zoos and aquaria in the UK and overseas since 2003. We are based in Keighley, West Yorkshire, and are a department of the International Zoo Veterinary Group (IZVG), a long-established company that has been at the forefront of zoological medicine since 1976. IZVG currently has six specialist zoo and aquarium vets, who mostly work on location at our client collections across the UK and abroad. On site in Keighley we have a recently-refurbished and equipped histology laboratory and post mortem suite. You will join two full time Veterinary Pathologists, a Senior Histology Technician and a small and friendly administrative team.

IZVG Pathology has a unique and interesting caseload composed of necropsy and histopathology specimens derived from zoological, wildlife and aquatic species. On a daily basis we receive specimens ranging across the taxonomic spectrum (aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals). These present a range of technical challenges in the production of high quality histological material, and we are looking for candidates who will relish this and help us to improve the quality and efficiency of our service. The post holder will also provide technical support for post mortem examinations and willingness and enthusiasm to be practically involved with diagnostic sampling from veterinary cadaver material (after appropriate training) is desirable.

JOB SUMMARY:

Position holders will be responsible for the processing of routine diagnostic specimens and associated documentation in our Keighley laboratory, and will be expected to perform all designated tasks within the laboratory to ensure the efficient running of our diagnostic histopathology service. In addition, holders may be required to provide technical support for veterinary diagnostic post mortem examinations under the direction of our pathologists. The further development of departmental technical protocols may be required, as will liaison with IZVG staff in other departments, including our clinical veterinarians.

KEY BENEFITS:

- Salary consistent with experience
- Twelve month initial contract (opportunity for extension depending on circumstances)
- Enrolment in company pension scheme with employer contribution
- 23 days annual leave (plus statutory holidays)

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The primary duties and responsibilities for this position may include:

- performing (according to the specific SOP) procedures associated with all aspects of the receipt, processing and documentation of diagnostic veterinary samples, with particular emphasis on histopathology, cytopathology and post mortem examination. The degree of supervision required for each procedure will be at the discretion of the Principal Veterinary Pathologist, and based on the individual's current level of training.
- continuing to develop knowledge and expertise, keeping abreast of relevant current literature, adopting technical innovations as appropriate. Developing/auditing histological techniques as necessary for the maintenance of quality or in response to diagnostic demand (e.g. special stains).
- being familiar with, and adhering to, all laboratory and company occupational health and safety policies and procedures.
- carrying out any routine laboratory maintenance and housekeeping duties as required, including within the histology laboratory and associated archive and storage areas.
- providing technical assistance to the pathologists during gross post mortem examinations and carrying out routine maintenance and housekeeping duties in the post mortem room facility.
- maintaining appropriate databases, archives and tissue/sample banks, as directed by the pathologists, including the computerised accessioning of diagnostic samples on receipt at the laboratory.
- assisting in the preparation and dispatch of samples for onward referral to other diagnostic laboratories as directed by the pathologists.
- ensuring good co-operation and communication with other departments.
- communicating problems arising within the laboratory to the relevant senior member of staff.
- demonstrating a responsible attitude and a willingness to learn new procedures, participating in the production of new SOPs and in the review of those already established.
- ensuring compliance with all quality management system procedures, SOPs and company policies.
- participating in internal and external audits as required.
- undertaking other appropriate duties as directed by the pathologists.

EDUCATION:

- HNC, BSc or an equivalent qualification, preferably in Biomedical Science.

EXPERIENCE:

- A minimum of 2 years working within a histology laboratory environment, with evidence of competence in all routine aspects of histological processing. Additional experience in other laboratory disciplines including cytology, diagnostic microbiology, parasitology and post mortem/mortuary technique would be beneficial. It is expected that candidates will be comfortable working with veterinary cadaver material.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- In addition to expected technical competence in histology, sufficient understanding is required to be able to perform routine work assignments and to address day-to-day issues in an efficient and autonomous manner. You will be able to collate and organize information in accordance with established procedures or as directed by the pathologists. The ability to co-ordinate, communicate and problem solve with others to ensure a smooth work flow is essential. Routine familiarity and competence in the use of computer software appropriate for laboratory management and internal and external communication will be assumed.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

- General manual dexterity and visual acuity are necessary because of the nature of the duties. Duties (particularly in the post mortem room) may involve occasional light to medium lifting.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

- General histology laboratory and post mortem suite, office areas.
- The incumbent may be exposed to potentially harmful infectious and noxious agents (with appropriate personal protective equipment being provided).
- Exposure to unpleasant odours and bodily fluids during the course of post mortem examinations should be expected and the incumbent is expected to be comfortable with this.

THIS POSITION REPORTS TO:

Senior Histology Technician

International Zoo Veterinary Group Pathology

HOW TO APPLY:

Applications should be made by submitting a completed application form to:

finance@izvg.co.uk

The closing date for applications is 5 pm, Sunday December 8th, 2019.

ENQUIRIES:

For informal enquiries about the position please contact Dr Mark Stidworthy, Principal Veterinary Pathologist, email : m.stidworthy@izvg.co.uk, telephone: 01535 692000.



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Practice dedicated to zoo, aquatic and exotic animal medicine.

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