

# Shelter Veterinarian

## JOB DESCRIPTION

**REPORTS TO:** Medical Director

**LOCATION:** PVAS Locations - Edinburg, TX



### POSITION OVERVIEW:

PVAS seeks a Shelter Veterinarian (Veterinary Surgeon) to join our nationally-recognized shelter as it solidifies its role as a leader in the U.S. animal welfare movement. The Veterinary professional in this position will perform a wide range of duties, including spay/neutering, various other companion animal surgeries, and provision of medical oversight of shelter animals. The most competitive candidates will have high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter experience as well as shelter medicine experience.

While the primary responsibility is the performance of sterilization surgeries (30-50/day) on shelter animals and previously adopted pets, ample opportunity exists to perform other soft tissue or orthopedic surgical procedures to improve the quality of life and adoptability of shelter animals. In addition to surgical responsibilities, the candidate will perform examinations, develop treatment plans and monitor the medical progress of sick and injured shelter pets.

The Shelter Veterinarian oversees a team of veterinary technicians, animal care staff, and clerical support personnel as their duties relate to contagious disease control, medical care, and the general well-being of individual animals and the shelter population as a whole. Our compassionate, hard-working team cares for more than 16,000 animals per year. We want you to apply if you are a veterinarian licensed in Texas and meet the qualifications.

Shelter medicine is a dynamic, fast-paced environment that will give you the opportunity to treat extraordinary cases using best practices developed in a rapidly progressing field. In treating shelter pets, you can focus solely on the benefit of the animal without the often taxing demands of owners. In addition to the growth in your experience treating pets in the shelter medicine setting, you will have the benefit of flexible hours, excellent pay and benefits, a defined pension plan, annual vacation accrual, paid holidays, and health and dental insurance.

Palm Valley Animal Society is the largest animal shelter south of San Antonio, and in the last three years, we have made monumental changes in life-saving strategies and are leading the region in creating positive outcomes for the animals in our care. With the support of national funders, including PetSmart, Petco Love, Best Friends Animal Society, Maddie's Fund, and Human-Animal Support Services (HASS), we are continuing to make the Rio Grande Valley a safer place for pets and their people.

## **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Effective case management for on-site, hospitalized, and foster animals.
- Daily treatment of hospitalized and Parvo ICU patients.
- Triage, assess, and treat a wide variety of patients with illnesses and injuries, from routine examinations to advanced medical cases and critical emergency care.
- Ability to spay/neuter at least 30-50 patients a day.
- Visiting the dog kennels, cattery, isolation, and ringworm wards to assess health.
- Develop and amend protocols to maximize shelter animal health, while minimizing resource usage.
- Utilize/teach support staff and volunteer help to maximize veterinarian time.
- Assist in the development and management of outbreak prevention and reaction protocols.
- Ability to provide telemedicine response via email, telephone, and Zoom for other shelter locations, fosters, and adopters.
- Required on-call rotation assignment for after-hours emergencies.
- Travel between two locations is required as needed. Work at both shelters will mirror on-site duties with additional triaging of medical cases for rescue or transfer as needed.
- Keen focus on clear, accessible, and responsive communication with PVAS team, clients, and partner shelter locations.
- Perform medical examinations on animals for which the department is responsible and prescribes, performs, and oversees recommended treatments as may be necessary.
- Maintains animal health and treatment records as required.
- Work to ensure the general health and welfare of sheltered animals by providing guidance and training to staff and volunteers.
- Address disease issues in the shelter through the development and implementation of appropriate sanitation and health management protocols.
- Monitor animals being held in quarantine for signs of illness and make recommendations as needed if/when animals become sick regarding treatment, testing, etc.
- Ensure best practices are in place regarding animal health and care.
- Ensure Standard Operating Procedures are being followed.
- Through continuing education, stays current on new trends, protocols, and opportunities to improve animal care, surgical protocols, and techniques, sanitation, disease control, etc.
- Help ensure adequate medical supplies and equipment are available and in proper working condition at all times.
- Assist in training staff on matters of shelter health, sanitation, animal handling, and other related areas.
- Report any issues or concerns immediately to the Medical Director and/or Operations Director and assist in the resolution of problems related to animal health.
- Serve as veterinary representation for PVAS in the community and area veterinary associations.
- Administer vaccinations and microchips to appropriate animals
- Embrace a "one team" approach to accomplish daily tasks, goals, and projects by interacting, cooperating, assisting, training, and learning from volunteers.
- Perform other duties as necessary which are related to or logically associated with this position.

## Minimum Qualifications:

- **Education:** Must possess a DVM or VMD degree from an accredited college or university and be licensed to practice as a Veterinarian in the State of Texas, or be able to obtain and maintain a veterinary license in good standing with the state veterinary board upon hire.
- **Experience:** At least one (1) year of experience working in the capacity of a Veterinarian to include performing spay/neuter surgeries and pre-pubescent sterilizations required. Shelter Medicine Certification or experience working in an animal shelter preferred
- **Miscellaneous:** Must possess and maintain a current, valid Texas Driver's License.

## Skills and Requirements:

- Must possess enthusiasm for working in a growing/evolving animal shelter environment. Leadership in this area is critical!
- Must possess skills needed to perform various medical procedures, e.g., spay/neuter and other minor surgeries, examination and treatment of various injuries and illnesses, pre and post-operative care and monitoring of animals, etc.
- Must have the ability to deal diplomatically and professionally with sensitive issues and problems.
- Must have the ability to render quick, responsible decisions under stressful and emotional circumstances.
- Knowledge and understanding of herd management practices and principles as they apply to shelter health.
- Have the ability to teach/train staff, volunteers, and/or interns on matters of animal health, disease recognition, and control, animal behavior, restraint, etc.
- Must be able to use and understand shelter/medical software programs and other basic equipment associated with day-to-day operations. Experience with ShelterLuv is a plus.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective and positive working relationships and communications with staff, volunteers, government agencies, veterinarians, law enforcement, volunteers, civic groups, and the general public.
- Ability to troubleshoot during times of increased disease and develop appropriate solutions.
- Ability to help establish and maintain best practices regarding sanitation, health, and animal well-being
- Assist in securing necessary premises, clinics, and controlled drug permits.

**Work Environment:**

While performing the duties of the job, the employee is frequently exposed to odors or airborne particles, including animal fur and toxic chemicals. The noise level in the work environment is very loud. Frequent driving between facilities is required as well as consistent availability after-hours, on weekends, and on holidays.

**Benefits:**

- Competitive Salary
- Dental/Vision insurance
- Health/Life insurance
- 457B Retirement Plan
- Paid time off
- Relocation assistance
- Signing bonus

**Schedule:**

- Flexible hours
- Some emergency on-call

PVAS is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to their race, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, domestic partner status, or medical condition.