

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
CLASS SPECIFICATION

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST

POSITION CODE: 47916  
Effective: 02-01-08

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under administrative direction, performs highly skilled procedures necessary for animal disease diagnosis and detection; conducts microscopic determination of disease and makes recommendations for the elimination or control of the elements contributing to disease; supervises, plans, assigns, and evaluates the work of staff; provides consultation services to veterinarians and livestock producers in the state; supervises the clinical sections of the laboratory.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Performs necropsies on all species of animals, observing all organs and body systems for gross pathology, selecting tissues and other specimens for microbiological, chemical and pathological testing study; performs microscopic examinations of stained tissue sections to determine microscopic changes, interprets cellular changes as applied to a definitive diagnosis; reviews mailed-in cases, sorts and prepares tissues for various laboratory sections, collates and interprets results, prepares report with most probable diagnosis, records findings for submitting clients; travels as needed to accomplish program goals and objectives.
2. Supervises staff, assigns work, approves time off, provides guidance and training; effectively recommends and imposes disciplinary action; adjusts grievances; completes, discusses and signs performance evaluations; establishes annual goals and objectives; counsels staff on problems with productivity, quality of work and conduct; determines staffing needs to achieve program objectives.
3. Cooperates with other diagnostic laboratories and regulatory agencies, both state and federal, to establish early diagnosis and prevent the spread of contagious, exotic, and foreign animal diseases; consults with referring veterinarians and/or clients when taking case histories and when a diagnosis has been established, makes recommendations to minimize further death or economic loss.
4. Provides assistance to meat and poultry inspection personnel and performs final examination when needed.
5. Working with practicing veterinarians, makes field investigations to farms with possible disease infestations.
6. Maintains ongoing communication with colleagues, attends continuing education seminars, reads current journals, and attends local veterinary medical association meetings to maintain current knowledge regarding research and trends relating to animal disease diagnosis.

7. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope and duties enumerated above.

#### DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

##### Education and Experience

Requires a doctor of veterinary medicine and eligibility for certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP).

Eligibility for certification by the ACVP requires five years experience practicing veterinary medicine, three years of which must be in veterinary pathology, and two years of which must be practiced under the direct supervision of an ACVP certified veterinary pathologist.

##### Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires thorough knowledge of veterinary medicine with particular reference to infections and contagious diseases and abnormalities of animals and poultry.

Requires thorough knowledge of veterinary necropsy and surgical pathology, descriptive and diagnostic aspects of general pathology and clinical pathology.

Requires extensive knowledge of state and federal laws, rules and regulations pertaining to animal and poultry disease control and eradication, or slaughter, processing and storage of meat and poultry.

Requires working knowledge of epidemiological procedures applicable to the control and eradication of animal and poultry diseases.

Requires ability to conduct postmortem examinations.

Requires ability to exercise sound professional judgment in analyzing and determining type, nature and extent of disease, infestation or abnormal conditions affecting animals and poultry.

Requires ability to supervise and direct the work of subordinate staff.

Requires ability to make accurate value appraisals of livestock for indemnity purposes.

Requires ability to prepare, maintain, and review, if warranted, records and reports relative to the functions and operations conducted.

Requires ability to use instruments of the profession and related methods and techniques.

Requires ability to establish and further acceptable working relationships with veterinary practitioners, regulatory personnel, county personnel, plant personnel, herd owners, and members of related industries.

May require possession of an appropriate valid driver's license.