



ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Animal Emergency Response
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	<p>The Animal Behavior Specialist assesses behavioral status, identifies potentially dangerous behaviors, and makes behavioral recommendations for animals in one or more of the following competency areas during and after disasters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Companion animals, including pets, service animals, and assistance animals 2. Livestock, including food or fiber animals and domesticated equine species 3. Wildlife animals, captive wildlife, and zoo animals 4. Laboratory animals
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This position can be ordered as a single resource. 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment 3. The position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days 4. Requestor specifies competency areas necessary based on the animal population the position will serve

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Animal Behavior Specialist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Triage animals to determine behavioral status 2. Classifies animals by behavioral status to determine the appropriate type of Animal Care and Handling Specialist or other staff to assign to handle them 3. Identifies potentially dangerous behaviors that could put the animal, the handler, or other people or animals at risk 4. Designs and coordinates animal enrichment and socialization programs 5. Develops and implements treatment plans to address animal behavioral issues for stray, abandoned, unattended, or relinquished animals 6. Consults on appropriate post-disaster animal disposition 	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified
TRAINING	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents 3. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 4. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 5. Animal training, animal behavior training, or equivalent training 	Not Specified



Position Qualification for Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services
Animal Emergency Response

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
EXPERIENCE	Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: 1. Extensive knowledge of species-typical and captive behavior of the animal populations represented 2. General understanding of animal welfare principles and processes 3. Extensive knowledge of animal training, motivation, and behavior modification principles 4. Practical experience working with the animal populations represented Experience: Three years of experience in applied animal behavior or animal training	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	1. Performs duties under moderate circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods of time 2. Is able to work while wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 3. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission	PPE is mission specific and may vary by work environment; it includes protective footwear, protective clothing for skin exposure, eye and ear protection, respirators, gloves, and masks.
CURRENCY	Routinely practices in a facility or field setting commensurate with the mission	Not Specified
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Possesses one of the following certifications, or an equivalent: 1. Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT) certification 2. American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB)-recognized certification 3. Animal Behavior Society: Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (ACAAB) 4. Animal Behavior Society: Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) 5. Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) certification 6. International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) certification	Not Specified



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NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

REFERENCES

1. American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB), Board-Certified Veterinary Behaviorist
2. Animal Behavior Society, Certification Requirements and Application
3. Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), Dog Trainer Certification
4. CCPDT, Behavior Consultant Certification
5. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System, November 2017
6. International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC)