

## ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

<b>RESOURCE CATEGORY</b>	Animal Emergency Response
<b>RESOURCE KIND</b>	Personnel
<b>OVERALL FUNCTION</b>	<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"> <li>1. Companion animals, including pets, service animals, and assistance animals</li> <li>2. Livestock, including food or fiber animals and domesticated equine species</li> <li>3. Wildlife animals, captive wildlife, and zoo animals</li> <li>4. Laboratory animals</li> </ol>
<b>COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This position can be ordered as a single resource.</li> <li>2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment</li> <li>3. Requestor specifies competency areas necessary based on the animal population the position will serve</li> </ol>

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

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

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extensive knowledge of species-typical and captive behavior of the animal populations represented</li> <li>2. General understanding of animal welfare principles and processes</li> <li>3. Extensive knowledge of animal training, motivation, and behavior modification principles</li> <li>4. Practical experience working with the animal populations represented</li> </ol> <p>Experience: Three years of experience in applied animal behavior or animal training</p>	Not Specified
<b>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moderate</li> <li>2. Is able to work while wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>3. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NIMS positions.</li> </ol>
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Routinely practices in a facility or field setting commensurate with the mission	Not Specified
<b>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS</b>	<p>Possesses one of the following certifications, or an equivalent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians (AVBT) certification</li> <li>2. American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB)-recognized certification</li> <li>3. Animal Behavior Society: Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (ACAAB)</li> <li>4. Animal Behavior Society: Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB)</li> <li>5. Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) certification</li> <li>6. International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) certification</li> </ol>	Not Specified



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

## NOTES

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

---

## REFERENCES

1. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
2. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System, November 2017
3. FEMA, National Response Framework, June 2016
4. American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB), Board-Certified Veterinary Behaviorist
5. Animal Behavior Society, Certification Requirements and Application
6. Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), Dog Trainer Certification
7. CCPDT, Behavior Consultant Certification
8. International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC)