

Technician of the Year

After study for a National Diploma in Animal Care and being taught about the use of animals for scientific research, I decided that I wanted to pursue being an animal technician as a career so that I could make a difference to thousands of people's lives, whilst still getting to work with animals. Having now worked as an animal technician for ten years, I have had the pleasure of working with a variety of species from rats and mice through to larger species such as dogs and farm animals. I have also been able to travel extensively, working in numerous locations throughout the UK as well as France, Germany and Denmark.

I have found being an animal technician to be extremely rewarding, with the opportunity to further my career by studying for degree level qualifications recognised throughout the industry. I have also taken great delight in being part of life changing research for diseases such as diabetes, meningitis and multiple sclerosis.

The highlight of my career so far has been winning the 'Technician of the Year' award as a member of the Agenda contract team and being recognised as a valuable member of the research industry. An article about the award was published in a peer reviewed journal and distributed worldwide. As a result of this I have been recognised throughout the industry and have been congratulated on numerous occasions by high level research staff.

Also within the industry is a large social network, with frequent events arranged, ranging from behind the scenes tours of wildlife parks to annual bowling competitions. These are a great opportunity to meet with likeminded people to exchange view and opinions, and further enhance the techniques being used within the industry.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last ten years as an animal technician and hope to have many enjoyable and productive years ahead.