Veterinary Practice

Objective

The Veterinary Social Worker’s primary roles are to provide emotional support to clients and staff, short term interventions, and psychoeducational programs.

License Requirements

- Must be a licensed clinical social worker, LCSW, or must be in the process of obtaining the licensure in order to practice independently.
  - This includes having supervision by an approved LCSW - $30-$60 per hour of supervision for every 30 client hours.
- LCSWs need 30 CE hours in order to renew their license. Of those 30 hours, 20 must be in social work, six must be in ethics and four can be in either professional ethics or social work. As of November 2015, the renewal fee was $120 (http://www.socialworkguide.org/licensure/tennessee/).

Salary
Interview questions

- Have you ever been through a euthanasia?
  - Opportunity to view without ownership
- Comfort level around animals within this agency?
- Are you able to aid staff and workers in day to day tasks?
  - Servant leadership
- Do you understand dual relationships?

Tasks and Job Duties

Client Care

- Provide short term counseling by request from clients
- Provide referrals to community mental health professionals as requested
- Establish storage of client documentation that is confidential
- Provide individual and group grief counseling associated with the loss of companion animals for clients
- Aid clients in the end of life planning for their pet and communicate with staff

Staff & Workers

- Provide support to clients by request from staff
- Provide debriefing individually and/or in groups
- Provide short-term counseling regarding work or personal matters
- Provide referrals to community mental health professionals as requested
- Provide support in mitigating compassion fatigue for staff
- Develop or enhance wellness practices within the practice

Education and Outreach

- Provide continuing education presentations for staff, workers, and referring veterinarians on compassion fatigue, self-care, human and animal bond, the Link, grief and loss, and communication
- Maintain and develop a resource list of therapists in the area who are interested in providing pet loss counseling support for clients
- Speak to community groups about veterinary social work services as needed

Skills/Abilities

- Be familiar with animal laws within the State
- Maintain confidentiality and uphold the NASW Code of Ethics
- Ability to work independently
• Ability to provide services within a high paced and highly emotional setting