

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, grey mouse. The person is wearing a light blue lab coat, and the background is a blurred laboratory setting. The mouse is held gently, and its pink paws and whiskers are clearly visible.

**Professional
Skilled
Ethical
Expert
Controlled
Committed
Humane**

A Career as an Animal Technologist

Excellence in the Care and Welfare of Animals in Science

A job worth doing

Sally manages a team undertaking medical studies using rats and mice. She has worked for pharmaceutical companies and a university:

"I love my job - knowing animals are healthy and happy because of my knowledge and skill is massively rewarding."

Sally took A-level sciences and then a BSc in Animal Science. "I applied for a job as an Animal Technologist so I could combine my love of animals with a career in science."

Sally explains: "My experience working as a volunteer at a local vets and a stables was important. I had already shown a genuine interest in working with animals. I still enjoy watching the animals and the way they behave. Since I've become a manager I have really enjoyed training new staff. I can watch someone handle a rat with kindness and confidence and know I taught them how."

Sally was delighted to find animal technology is a well structured career. "I like to learn new techniques. Passing my exams to become a RAnTech (Registered Animal Technologist) was an important step in my career."

Sally believes animal technology is a good career option for young scientists: "We can specialise if we wish - one of my team is very interested in breeding and another in immunology. I personally enjoy management and training. We are relatively well paid compared to many other animal care jobs, but then we are scientifically trained. Medical studies take a long time, but it's wonderful knowing that work you are doing now might prove an important turning point in treating a disease."

Sally concludes: "The work can be tiring and sometimes repetitive, but every job is made more enjoyable by the interaction with the animals. What matters is that we do our job of caring for the animals and working to high scientific standards - the benefits to medical research follow from this."



Thinking of a career working with animals?

- **Would you like to work with animals?**
- **Are you interested in a rewarding job with long-term career prospects?**

Animal technology is the specialist profession responsible for the care and welfare of animals in science (ranging from rats and mice to marmosets and cows).

Animal technology is a career that involves caring for animals within the exciting and rapidly evolving scientific environment of a UK bio-medical research centre. We work in universities, veterinary colleges, pharmaceutical companies, specialist research organisations and animal breeding companies.

Animal technologists enjoy the satisfaction of helping to discover new medical treatments to treat illness, including cancer, diabetes and asthma, and protect the health of people and animals. We operate to high professional standards, caring for laboratory animals in an expert manner while maintaining the highest scientific and welfare standards.

We work in close knit teams, with colleagues who share our professional dedication to excellence in the ethical care of laboratory animals.

Our work requires life-long learning to update our knowledge and skills. We study for formal IAT qualifications through workplace training, day release and distance learning. A structured career path starts with the First Certificate in Animal Husbandry and we have the opportunity to pursue qualifications through to MSc and Ph.D level. There are many opportunities for specialisation, promotion and career development.



**Animal technologists –
through learning we care**

For more information see www.iat.org.uk

Knowledge, skill and caring

In the UK about 3.01 million* laboratory animals are used each year. Many of the animals are used for breeding. Almost two-thirds will be used for understanding disease and testing new medicines and treatments, such as new surgical techniques. About 3% of UK animal research is undertaken for chemical safety testing. Animal testing on cosmetic or tobacco products is not undertaken in the UK.

Animal technologists are responsible for the care and welfare of animals used in scientific and medical research laboratories in the UK. All animal research is controlled by strict laws – learning about the law is an essential part of an animal technologist's training. To be successful in gaining the Institute of Animal Technology qualifications, candidates are required to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the requirements of UK and EU scientific animal welfare legislation.

In the UK 83% of laboratory animals are rats and mice. Other species used include guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, fish, sheep, cows, pigs, monkeys (marmosets and macaques), dogs, cats, Xenopus frogs and reptiles – all of which are either purpose bred or specially supplied. It is the responsibility of animal technologists to find ways of using fewer animals and of improving the quality of life for laboratory animals.

Animal technology is an active job. Animal technologists have to be physically fit, wear protective clothing and will work actively in the animal facilities or laboratories for much of the day. It is a practical job, sometimes hot and tiring, with many routine tasks to be completed. The reward is a job providing constant contact with animals, within a high quality scientific environment, while working on exciting projects at the forefront of medical research.

Animal technology requires high levels of concentration and attention to detail. Animal technologists must provide accurate information and results (many projects will progress to testing in human volunteers). Time is spent at computers and taking measurements and readings.

Animal technology is a career for people truly committed to animal welfare. Animals need looking after 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year – so a typical working week might include early starts, late nights, weekend or bank holiday working.

For more information see
www.iat.org.uk





The first steps in a rewarding career

Animal technologists can enter the profession at any point from post-16 onwards. Post 'AS', 'A2', graduate and post-graduate entry is common. Anyone wishing to be an animal technologist must convince a potential employer of their genuine and committed interest in animal care and welfare. Applicants will be at an advantage if they can demonstrate direct experience of looking after animals (pets, dog walking, kennel work, school clubs, etc.).

See www.iat.org.uk and www.lantra.co.uk for more information

Entry requirements are not standardised, but generally employers will look for GCSE maths, English and one or more science subject (grade C and above).

Trainee animal technologists learn to:

- care for animals so they are healthy and content, handling different species correctly
- monitor all aspects of an animal's health
- recognise and resolve risks to the health and well-being of the animals
- meet the humane and legislative requirements essential to ensure the highest standard of controlled scientific studies
- select appropriate environmental enrichment to encourage natural behaviours in the animals
- provide high quality animal facilities and maintain the highest hygiene standards
- carry out monitoring, sampling, measuring and other experimental techniques (known as procedures)
- operate computerised scientific and electronic equipment
- understand and implement the detailed requirements of the legal controls on the use of animals in UK laboratories

Right from the start of their career animal technologists will:

- work in one of the most innovative and exciting areas of science, enjoy a lively, varied and interesting working day alongside a team of colleagues who share your interest in, and commitment to, the animals
- work closely with animals, learning more about them every day, in a job that is both varied and intellectually rewarding
- enjoy a career with animals that offers a structured career pathway, and includes the option to specialise in areas such as: breeding, genetically altered animals, management, training, facility design and specific research areas such as safety testing, immunology and pathology
- benefit from belonging to a dynamic professional association, the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT)
- Enjoy an active professional and social relationship with work colleagues



Life-long learning and accredited qualifications

The IAT training and qualifications programme for animal technologists is designed to support the key aim of the profession. **This is to contribute to advances in human and veterinary healthcare** (in areas such as new medicines, surgery, premature baby care, nutrition, immunisation and the treatment of cancer, heart disease, cystic fibrosis, paralysis, asthma and many other illnesses).

The Institute's motto *curando docemus* (through learning we care) reflects the educational and caring roles that the IAT promotes. Essential to this is the access technologists have to life-long learning and personal development throughout their careers. The IAT supports animal technologists to reach their full potential, contributing fully to the field of animal technology, science and animal welfare.

The IAT training and qualifications programmes allow animal technologists to:

- Benefit from on-the-job training; day release, seminars, training workshops and distance learning for both IAT qualifications and Continuing Professional Development accreditation. The qualifications and training system is flexible, allowing animal technologists to fit their studies around work, family and other commitments.
- Work towards transferable qualifications, recognised by all potential UK and many overseas employers. The Institute of Animal Technology is a recognised awarding body, regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The IAT qualifications are recognised in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (and overseas).
- Gain IAT awards in Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- 'Earn while you learn'. Train while earning around £13,000 per year with the employer paying for your training. A senior technologist could earn up to £28,000, a manager £35,000 and a facility director £40,000 plus, depending on the type of employer (in some areas, including London, an extra allowance is paid and regional variations will apply).
- Work with colleagues from Europe, Canada, the USA, the Far East, and elsewhere in the world, to improve the quality of animal research and to achieve medical advances.

Structured career path

There is always more to learn in a career caring for laboratory animals. Animal technologists are dedicated to advancing and promoting excellence in animal care and so there are constant new developments. Career progression is achieved not only by progress through levels of qualification, but also by continuously learning new skills, through a planned programme known as Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

Studying and passing the IAT qualifications provides the knowledge and skill required to practice animal technology. Accreditation is given for individual competencies and for gaining the levels of understanding needed.

There are three levels of qualification; all are obtained through the Institute of Animal Technology:

- **IAT First Certificate in Animal Husbandry (Level 2)** – an introduction to animal technology focusing on the recognition of high standards of animal care and animal husbandry plus an insight into the legal responsibilities of animal technology.
- **IAT First Diploma in Animal Technology (Level 2)** – builds on animal husbandry knowledge providing a broad understanding of key laboratory animal science and technology principles.
- **IAT National Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 3)** – designed for more experienced technologists; providing a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of good laboratory animal welfare and scientific practice. It prepares the technologist for greater workplace responsibilities and the transition to Higher Education.

Further qualifications under development include:

- **IAT National Diploma in Animal Technology (Level 3)** – students opting not to move onto the higher qualification can take optional specialist modules to gain the award.
- **IAT Certificate in Higher Education**
- **IAT Diploma in Higher Education**
- **IAT Foundation Degree**
- **IAT BSc in Animal Technology**
- **Post Graduate Certificate**
- **Post Graduate Diploma**
- **MSc Masters Degree**
- **Ph.D**

Depending on the qualification, the subjects covered within the various courses, include:

- Housing and routine care of laboratory animals
- Breeding and nutrition
- Ethics, law, euthanasia and health and safety
- Animal husbandry and health
- Biological science
- Physical science
- Numeracy, communication and ICT
- Management of the animals' environment and disease control
- Scientific procedures
- Genetic alteration
- Animal legislation, transport and good laboratory practice
- Cell biology
- Animal physiology

For more information on the IAT qualifications and CPD awards go to www.iat.org.uk or see the IAT booklets "Welcome to the IAT" and "What is CPD?"

Accredited qualifications, courses and training

The IAT has accredited Centres and offers its courses at locations in London, and throughout the country. The Centres provide courses that include learning through regular day release programmes, as well as visits to organisations and distance learning. This flexibility in the way the learning can be accessed, helps to ensure that courses are available for animal technologists, throughout the UK and overseas.

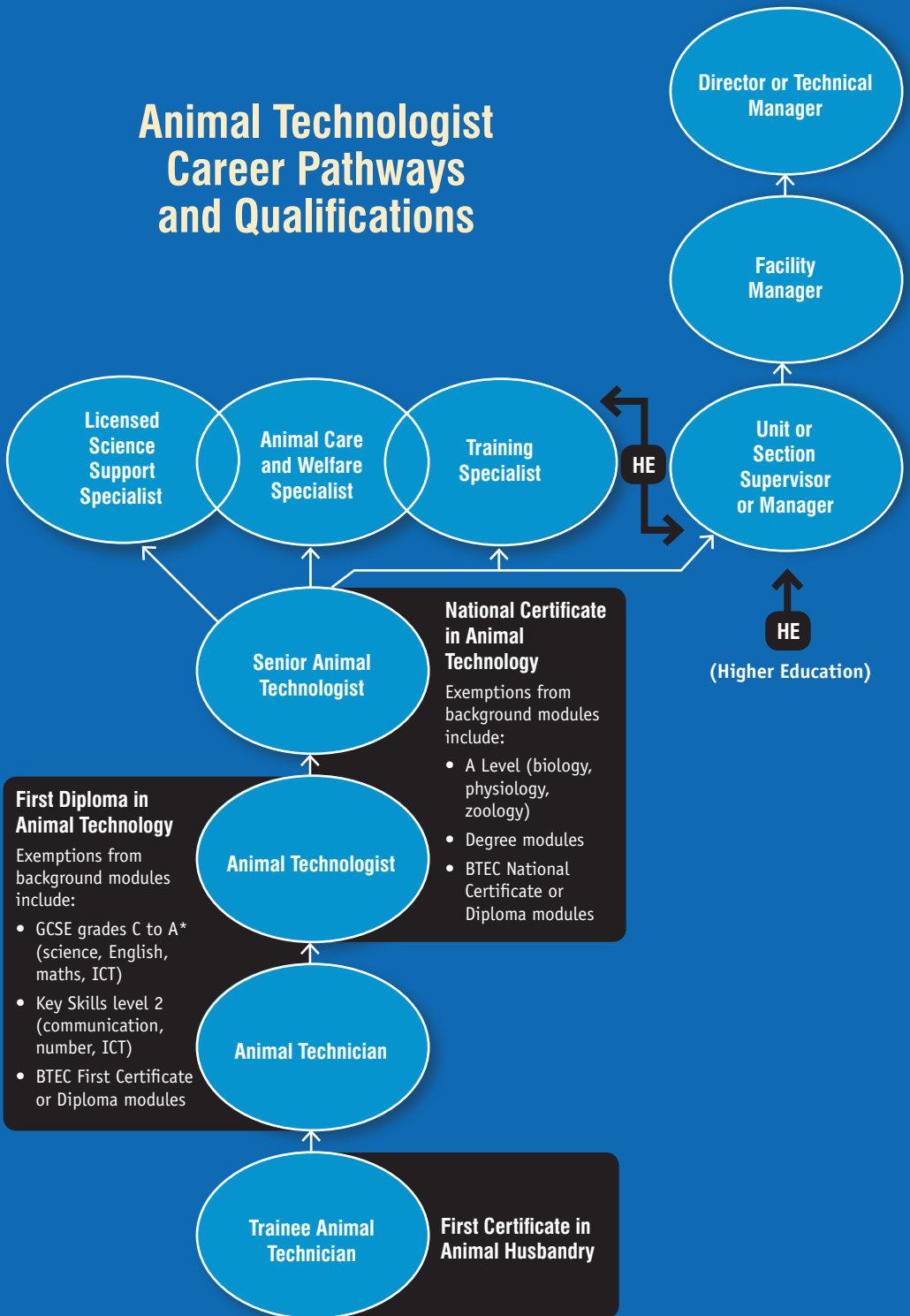
Details on the Centres providing the courses can be found on the Educational Section on the IAT website www.iat.org.uk

The broad objectives of the IAT qualifications are to:

1. Prepare animal technologists to meet their legal and ethical obligations
2. Promote and develop high standards of animal welfare and science
3. Encourage career development and progression for animal technologists



Animal Technologist Career Pathways and Qualifications





The Institute of Animal Technology – Through Learning We Care

The Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) is the professional body representing animal technologists. It was established in 1949 and now has over 2,200 members.

The IAT:

- sets the national standards for laboratory animal care, pursuing the interests of animal technologists and of laboratory animals, with professional authority
- is the Awarding Body, as recognised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, for the UK's qualifications in animal technology
- organises training courses, seminars, symposia and workshops
- sets internationally recognised and respected standards for the training and work of animal technologists that are recognised and respected throughout the world
- provides prizes, bursaries and scholarships to advance the study of animal technology
- promotes a culture, within the scientific community, where excellence in animal care is seen as essential to excellent science
- maintains a register of animal technologists who are bound by a Code of Professional Conduct
- publishes major reference and training material including books, videos and CD ROMs
- is a founder member of the European Federation of Animal Technologists (EFAT) which promotes co-operation between animal technologists working throughout Europe
- provides a monthly membership Bulletin and produces the regular professional publication – 'Animal Technology and Welfare'
- stages an annual Congress attracting hundreds of delegates from around the world
- organises Branch membership and events to encourage friendship and co-operation amongst animal technologists

For information for members, scientific colleagues and the media see www.iat.org.uk

For information about the use of animals in biomedical research for school pupils, students and the general public see www.medicalmouse.org.uk

www.medicalmouse.org.uk

Other useful websites include:

The Coalition for Medical Progress: www.medicalprogress.org

RDS Understandings Animals Research in Medicine: www.rds-online.org.uk

Home Office: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/animal-testing/





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Institute of Animal Technology

Advancing and promoting excellence in the care and welfare of animals in research

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Just as man has a legal and moral obligation to protect his fellows, prolong life and alleviate suffering he must also be aware of his obligation to ensure that the animals used to further these aims are properly cared for and protected. Our motto *curando docemus* (through learning we care) reflects both the educational and caring roles that the Institute practices.

Objectives
 Founded in 1949 the Institute of Animal Technology is the foremost professional body in the field. By our activities we continue to advance and promote excellence in technology and the practice of laboratory animal care and welfare. In education we make provision for Animal Technologists and others professionally engaged in the field of animal science to receive appropriate training and qualifications, thus ensuring that they may contribute to advancing standards of laboratory animal welfare at home and abroad.

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