

Policies

ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY

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SERVICE ANIMALS: DEFINED

A person with a disability or a service animal trainer who is accompanied by a service animal is allowed full use of the library. Service animals include seeing eye or guide dogs, as well as any dog, signal dog, miniature horse, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, regardless of whether the animal has been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

SERVICE ANIMALS: IDENTIFICATION

Not all service animals wear special collars or harnesses. If staff are not certain that an animal is a service animal, they may ask the person who has the animal if it is a service animal required because of a disability and may ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform. However, staff may not require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person's disability.

SERVICE ANIMALS: RESPONSIBILITY

The care or supervision of a service animal is the sole responsibility of its owner. A service animal may be excluded from the library if

- the animal is out of control and the animal's owner does not take effective action to control it, or
- the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

The library may charge the owner of a service animal for damages caused by a service animal, just as it would charge non-disabled people for damages to library property.

ANIMALS OTHER THAN SERVICE ANIMALS

While pets are not allowed in the library, "comfort" animals (that accompany people to lower their anxiety, also called "therapy" or "mental health" animals, usually without specific training other than obedience) may be allowed in the library at staff discretion, provided that the animal fully complies with all provisions of "Service Animals: Responsibility" stated above.

Animals other than service animals are also allowed in the library when they are part of library programming, such as the Read to a Dog program.