

Animals in the Library

Library patrons are prohibited from bringing animals into the library, with the exception of service animals accompanying a person with a disability.

As defined in federal law, a service animal is a dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability.

A staff member may approach and question a patron bringing an animal into the library if it is not readily apparent that the animal is a trained service animal. In these situations, the staff member is permitted to ask only the following two questions:

- Is the service animal required because of a disability, and
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

The patron will not be required to provide proof of or an explanation of their disability or their service animal's training

Work or tasks provided by service animal include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks;
- Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds;
- Pulling a wheelchair;
- Assisting an individual during a seizure;
- Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens;
- Retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone;
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities;
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors;
- Providing safety checks for individuals with posttraumatic stress disorder.

Unacceptable functions or tasks include, but are not limited to:



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- Crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence;
- The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship (commonly referred to as "emotional support animals").

While present at any library facility, a service animal shall be under the control of its handler. Usually this means the service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether. Exceptions may be made by the library director.

Any time a service animal is behaving in a manner incompatible with the essential purposes of the library, the library will immediately require that the service animal be brought into conformity or leave the library. Incompatible behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Barking/loud behavior;
- Urinating/defecating on the floor;
- Running away or otherwise leaving the side of the owner;
- Biting or other threatening actions such as growling, teeth bared, lunging on others besides the animal owner;
- Damaging library property or the property of others