



POLICY: Animals in the Library

Purpose

To determine the conditions under which animals will be permitted in the library.

Statement of Policy

- Pets are not allowed in the library.
- Animals that are necessary for a library program are allowed in the library.
- Service animals or service animals in training are allowed in the library.
 - Library staff may ask only the following two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
 - Library staff may not request any documentation for the animal, require that the animal demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.
 - The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times.
 - The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless either of these devices interferes with the animal's work or the person's disability prevents the use of these devices.
 - A service animals must generally stay on the floor or be carried by the person using it. Service animals are not permitted on library furniture.
 - If a service animal is out of control, barks repeatedly, or is not housebroken, the animal must be removed from the library.
 - When a service animal must be removed, library staff will offer the person with the disability an opportunity to obtain materials or services without the animal's presence.



- Other library users' allergies or fear of dogs are not valid reasons for the removal of service animals.

Definitions

Service Animal: The Americans with Disabilities Act defines a service animal as “a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability.

Emotional Support/Therapy/Comfort/Companion Animal: These terms are used to describe animals that provide comfort just by being with a person. Because they have not been trained to perform a specific job or task, they do not qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

Sources

Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Regulations: Part 35 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services

http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/titleII_2010_regulations.htm

U.S. Department of Justice revised regulations implementing Title II (state and local government services) of the Americans with Disabilities Act

http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

U.S. Department of Justice's publication "Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA"

https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

Adopted by the Ilsley Public Library Board of Trustees on September, 1996
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