

Service Animal Policy

- Pets are not permitted in the library.
- While the library occasionally presents educational programs that feature animals, members of the public may only enter the library with an animal if it is a service animal that requires accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C.A. Section 12101 et seq. as may be amended from time to time (ADA).
- Under the ADA, in general, a service animal is a dog individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. See, 36 C.F.R. Section 104. The service dog must be trained to take a specific action to assist the person with a disability, and the task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability.
- Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained as a service animal to perform a specific job or task do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

If it is not obvious that a dog brought into the library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following questions:

- 1.) *Is the dog required because of a disability?*
- 2.) *What specific work or task has the dog been trained to perform?*

Library staff attempting to ascertain whether an animal is a service animal will never ask about the nature of a person's disability.

Miniature Horses in the Library:

Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds.

Miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities are recognized under 28 C.F.R. Section 35.136(i) and are permitted in the library as set forth below.

In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures can be made to permit miniature horses in the library, the staff shall consider of the following factors:

- 1) The miniature horse's type, size, and weight and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- 2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- 3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken ; and
- 4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in the library will compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for the safe operation of the library.

Additionally, all other requirements of the Library's Service Animal Policy which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

Owner/Handler's Responsibilities:

- Service animals must be under the immediate control of their owner/handler at all times. The service animal shall be harnessed, leashed or tethered, unless these devices interfere with a service animal's performance or an owner/ handler's disability prevents the use of these devices. In that case, the owner/handler shall control the service animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of its owner/ handler.
- Reasonable behavior is expected from service animals while in the library and on the grounds. Service animals which are not housebroken, bark excessively, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises.
- The owner shall clean and dispose of all animal waste appropriately. If a service animal is removed from the library for any reason, library staff shall offer the disabled individual the opportunity to obtain any services without the service animal's presence.
- Service animals may never be left unattended while in the library or on the library grounds.
- All service animals shall be immunized against rabies and other diseases common to that type of service animal. All vaccinations shall be current and service animals shall be in good health.
- Service animals shall wear an owner identification tag at all times, which includes the name and phone number of the owner. Service animals shall be licensed in compliance with local laws.
- Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures, or in library baskets or carts, and must remain on the floor or be carried (as appropriate) by their handlers at all times. Misrepresenting an animal as a service animal is a violation of the library's Patron Code of Conduct, and may result in suspension of library privileges.

Approved by the Board of Directors 9/12/19; Rev. 9/14/23