

28. Animals in the Library

Service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are dogs and (in some cases) miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for someone with a disability.

28.1 To know if it is a service animal

The only 2 questions a staff member can ask the patron about the animal:

1. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

28.2 ~~Repercussions~~ Consequence if animal is not a service animal

A patron may be asked to leave:

1. If the answer to the question “Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?” is “no.”
2. If the patron provides an insufficient answer to the question, “What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?”
3. If the service animal is out of control and the animal’s ~~handler~~ **owner** does not take effective action to control it.

The patron is welcome to come back without the animal.

28.3 Animals for a Library program

The Library may choose to host programs that include the presence of an animal(s). Each program will follow these guidelines:

1. Each program will have a clearly defined day and time, which will be advertised in advance.
2. The animal(s) will remain in a designated area.
3. A trained handler will always accompany the animal(s).