

## **ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY POLICY**

Adopted by C.A. Friday Memorial Library Board of Trustees: 5/4/2021

Revised:

### **Purpose**

The Carleton A. Friday Memorial Library recognizes that patrons with disabilities may have service animals that are trained to assist or accommodate a person with a sensory, mental, or physical disability or to perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled individual. The Library recognizes legal rights under federal and state laws regarding use of service animals. Friday Memorial Library also considers the safety and health of all of its patrons, the public, and library staff to be of utmost priority.

### **Definition**

The United States Department of Justice and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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.

Beginning on March 15, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under titles II (State and local government services) and III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) of the ADA.

### **Miniature Horses**

In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the Department's ADA regulations have a separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Therefore, an individual with a disability may be allowed to utilize a miniature horse as a service animal, subject to all of the restrictions outlined in the policy, but also subject to additional considerations. When determining whether to allow a miniature horse to function as a service animal, the Library may consider the following before permission is granted:

- The horse in question may be no more than 34 inches tall measured at its shoulder and it may weigh no more than 100 pounds.
- As with dogs, the horse must have been individually trained to do the work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
- As with dogs, the handler of the horse must be able to be in sufficient control of the horse and the horse must be housebroken.
- The presence of the horse may not compromise legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for the safe operation of the Library.

## **Policy Statement**

No pets or animals other than service animals (see definition above), or service animals in training, are allowed in the Library. All service animals must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

## **Additional Guidelines**

- Pets are not allowed in the Library.
- Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained to perform a specific job or task do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
- 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 (ADA).
- Pending approval by the Library Director, or designee, the Library may have animals in the building as part of its educational or recreational offerings.
- If it is not obvious that a dog brought into the Library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following questions:
  - Is the service animal required because of a disability?
  - What specific work or task has the service animal been trained to perform?
- A staff member attempting to ascertain whether a dog is a service animal will never ask about the nature of a person's disability.
- Service animals which are not housebroken, bark excessively, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive may be asked to leave the premises.
- 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.
- Animals may never be left unattended on Library grounds.

## **Source**

U.S. Department of Justice ADA Service Animals bulletin - [https://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)