

## Animals in the Library Policy

It is the policy of the Weeks Memorial Library not to allow animals in the library with the exception of service animals or animals featured in specific programs sponsored by the library. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal, sometimes also referred to as an assistance animal, is one that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained to assist an individual to perform a specific job or task do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Animals in training as service animals are also not allowed in the building.

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

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

Staff may not ask the nature of the disability.

The ADA does not require that service animals be licensed or certified by state or local government or a training program, or be identified by a special harness or collar.

Service animals must be under the immediate control of their handlers at all times.

Service animals which are not housebroken, bark excessively, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises.

Misrepresenting an animal as a service animal may result in suspension of library privileges.

Reviewed and accepted by the Board 6-11-18; reviewed 11/13/2023