

Sinking Spring Public Library

Animals in the Library Policy

Service Animals

In accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are welcomed and permitted in the library.

The ADA defines a service animal as “an animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability.”

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

In order to help maintain a pleasant, productive and safe environment for all Library users and staff, the following guidelines for service animals must be observed:

- Service animals must be in physical proximity with their handler and under handler control at all times.
- Service animals may not be left unattended by their handler at any time.
- Service animals must be on a leash or harness at all times unless the use of the leash or harness interferes with the animal’s effective performance of its designated task(s). If the animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, it must be under the handler’s control via voice, signals, or other effective means at all times.
- Service animals must be housebroken and their handler is solely responsible for the care and cleanup of the animal.
- Service animals must not display aggressive or disruptive behavior.*
- Service animals are permitted to accompany their handlers into all areas of the library where members of the public are normally permitted.

Users of service animals are not required to provide documentation of a disability.

Service animals are not required to be licensed or certified by a state or local government or training program, or be identified by a special harness or collar.

Staff may ask two questions: (1) Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Owners of service animals will indicate that the animal is a working animal and not a pet.

Staff may not ask about the owner's disability.

*NOTE: If a service animal's behavior or actions pose an unreasonable or direct threat to the health or safety of others, it may not remain in the Library. If a service animal is excluded from the Library, the individual with the disability is welcomed to stay and will be reasonably accommodated by Library staff.

Emotional Support Animals

An emotional support animal (ESA) may be an animal of any species which provides companionship and emotional support for those diagnosed with a psychological disorder. An ESA does not require training to perform a specific task and does not currently qualify as a service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act. **The Library is not required to admit emotional support animals.**

Pets

Pets are not permitted in the Library.

Exceptions for Library-Sponsored Programs

The Library may offer or sponsor educational programs for the public that include various animals. These animals are permitted in the Library for the duration of the program and must be accompanied by the owner/handler at all times.

<https://americandisabilityrights.org/>

<https://www.ada.gov/archive/animal.htm>

Review

The Library Board of Trustees shall periodically review this Policy and update as needed.

Adopted 11/13/23