

# POLICY

Category: Access & Facilities

Number: E.14

Title: **Animals in the Library**

Effective Date: February 13, 2021

Authorized By: CFL Board of Trustees

Last Revision: December 14, 2019

Resources: Americans With Disabilities Act 2010 - Revised Requirements for Service Animals

---

The Cudahy Family Library recognizes that some patrons may have service animals which are trained to assist or accommodate a person with a sensory, mental, or physical disability or to perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The Cudahy Family Library recognizes legal rights under applicable federal and state laws regarding the use of service animals in public places. And, the Cudahy Family Library also considers the safety and health of all of its patrons, the public, and library staff to be of utmost priority.

Patrons are allowed to bring service animals and service animals in training into the Cudahy Family Library. Under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is a dog or miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or to perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Examples of trained tasks or work include, but are not limited to, guiding individuals with visual impairments, alerting hearing impaired individuals to sounds, carrying and picking up objects or providing balance for individuals with mobility impairments, pulling a wheel chair, alerting individuals to oncoming seizures, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder during an anxiety attack, or reminding a person to take prescribed medication. Service animals are not required to be licensed or certified by state or local government or training programs, and are not required to be identified by a special harness or collar.

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals and pets are not considered service animals under the ADA. Persons bringing in animals other than service animals will be asked to remove the animals from the Library. If a member of the Library's staff is not certain if an animal is a service animal, the staff member may ask the following questions: is the animal required because of a disability and what specific job or task has the animal been trained to perform. Staff members attempting to ascertain whether an animal is a service animal will not ask about the nature of a person's disability and will not require the person to provide documentation of a disability or authorized use of a service animal.

Individuals with service animals may bring those animals into all areas of the Library where members of the public are normally allowed to access. Service animals are not allowed on furniture or in library baskets or carts. Owners or handlers must keep service animals with them and under their full custody and control at all times. If a service animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, due to a disability or interference with the performance of a task, it must be otherwise clearly be under the owner's/handler's control by voice control, signals, or other effective means including being carried. Owners/handlers of service animals are solely responsible for the supervision and care of the service animal while on Library property. Library staff cannot be expected to help care for the animals. Service animals which are not housebroken; bark excessively; are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive; or damage property will be required to leave the premises.

Animals may never be left unattended on the Library's grounds. In consideration of safety for both library patrons and the animals, the Library staff reserves the right to contact the Cudahy Police Department regarding any unattended animals on its premises. The Library also reserves the right to ban library patrons who endanger patrons and animals in such a way.

Fear of animals, allergies, presumed outcomes, or annoyance on the part of other patrons are not permissible reasons for denying access or for refusing library service to individuals with service animals. However, misrepresenting an animal as a service animal is a violation of the Library's Code of Conduct (Policy E.01) and may result in suspension of privileges.

The Cudahy Family Library does allow animals in the building and on the property for adult and youth programs, including therapy dog sessions to help patrons with their reading skills.

Patrons who feel their use of the Library has been compromised due to this policy should report their concerns to the Library Director or submit a *Statement of Concern* from the Library's *Challenged Materials / Services Policy* (A.09).