

Service Animals in the Library

Fond du Lac Public Library

Board approved: October 20, 2022

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), only dogs and miniature horses may qualify as service animals. Service animals are those which have been specifically trained to do a particular task to aid in the health and wellbeing of an individual.

Under ADA, library staff may ask:

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

No proof of training or disability is required.

Service animals must

1. Be housebroken
2. Remain calm and be well-behaved
3. Be under the owner's control at all times (either by leash or verbal)
4. Not compromise legitimate safety requirements of library services

Emotional support animals who provide comfort or reduce anxiety of their owners are not covered under ADA. Therapy and performance animals who have been trained to behave in institutional settings are not covered by the ADA, but are permitted in the library with permission from authorized staff.

PROCEDURE FOR STAFF

If a dog/mini horse is quietly attentive to its owner (not whining, barking, begging for food or attention, growling, etc), assume the animal is a service animal and do not approach.

If a service animal leaves the owner, the animal may be alerting to a medical issue. Staff will attempt to reconnect the service animal with its owner.

In the case of an animal that is not a dog or a miniature horse, staff will approach the owner and animal, inform them of the policy, and ask that they remove the animal from the library.