

## Service Animal Policy

Service animals are permitted in the Cold Spring Harbor Library in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

ADA defines a service animal as any dog 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. Dogs that satisfy this definition are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government, or any other entity.

Under ADA and New York law, facilities that serve the public may not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. In addition, these facilities must permit a service animal in all areas of the facility where the public is invited. (Note: A public accommodation provider is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal and is not required to provide food or a special location for the animal).

A public accommodation provider cannot ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability and may not demand proof that the animal is certified. However, if it is not readily apparent that a dog is a service animal, they may ask (1) if the animal is required because of a disability, and (2) what work the animal has been trained to perform.

Service animals must be allowed in a public facility regardless of any stated "no pets" policy, as a service animal is not a pet.

Federal ADA laws override state or local laws regarding service animals.

Examples of tasks a service animal might perform include:

- Assisting with navigation, stability or balance
- Alerting to sounds or allergens
- Pulling wheelchairs, carrying and retrieving items
- Seizure assistance
- Interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

The task a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. The animal must be under the handler's control at all times, and the animal must be harnessed or leashed (max. 6 ft. long). The animal must stay in public areas and must be housebroken. The handler is responsible for the prompt removal and disposal of waste. The animal is not allowed to sit on furniture, indoors or out, as all seating is reserved for the public.

The animal must not demonstrate disruptive, agitated, or aggressive behavior, including but not limited to barking, whining, biting, growling, jumping, scratching, leash pulling, sniffing, or any harassment of Library staff or the public.

Library staff will require the handler to correct the animal's behavior if it is not compliant with Library policy. If the handler cannot control the animal, Library staff will request that the animal be removed from Library grounds.

Misrepresenting an animal as a service animal is a violation of this Policy and may result in the suspension of library privileges.

Animals not covered by this policy will not be allowed upon the premises.

Adopted January 6, 2020