



Boyle County Public Library ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY

The Boyle County Public Library recognizes that some patrons with disabilities may have service animals, which are trained to perform specific tasks to assist or accommodate a person with a physical, sensory, or mental disability. Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the library to allow service animals into areas of the library where members of the public are permitted. The library acknowledges the legal rights under federal and state laws regarding the use of service animals while also considering the safety and health of all of its patrons, the public, and library staff to be a priority.

A service animal is defined as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. As of 2011, animals other than dogs, except for trained miniature horses subject to certain limitations, do not qualify as service animals according to federal law. Dogs or other animals used purely for emotional support are not considered service animals in terms of public accommodations.

No pets or animals, other than service animals, as defined above, are allowed in the library, with the exception of animals that are included in a program or event sponsored by the library or library staff. Owners of pets and/or non-service animals will be asked to remove them from the building.

Library staff have the right and may ask the animal's handler (1) if the animal is a pet and (2) what task has the animal been trained to perform. However, the handler is not required to produce documentation about the service animal or to prove an individual's disability. Service animals are not required to be licensed or certified or identified by a special harness or collar. **SERVICE ANIMALS MUST BE HOUSEBROKEN AND ON A LEASH OR HARNESS AT ALL TIMES AND MUST BE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE HANDLER.** The only exception to the leash or harness is when the leash or harness interferes with the animal's effective performance of its task, in which case, the animal **MUST** be under the handler's control via voice, signals, or other effective means at all times.

The library reserves the right to ask that a service animal vacate the premises if the animal is not under the direct control of its handler or if the animal is not housebroken. In addition, library staff may ask a service animal to be removed from the building if its behavior is a direct threat to the health or safety of others. In these cases library staff will give the option to obtain library services without the animal on the premises. Animals which show aggression towards patrons or staff; nip; bite; jump up on patrons; destroy library property; urinating or defecating in the library building; or repeatedly barking may be subject to removal from the library. Fear, allergies, or annoyance on the part of other patrons or employees are not considered valid reasons for denying access to people with service animals.

In the event a service animal is removed or a handler is asked to remove the service animal due to animal behavior or lack of handler control, the handler will be given the opportunity to return to the library on another occasion when the service animal is under control and no longer misbehaving.

In the event that another patron expresses annoyance or discomfort with a service animal, or allergy concerns, staff shall make efforts to help that patron find a different place in the library to do their work.

Owners of service animals are solely responsible for the supervision, care, and control of the service animal while on Library property.

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