



SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are welcome in the Stoughton Public Library. The ADA defines “service animals” as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.” We also include service animals that are trained to assist in improving the literacy skills of children, e.g. Tail Waggin’ Tutors. *Pets whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.*

In order to help maintain a pleasant, productive, and safe environment for all library patrons and staff, the following behavioral guidelines for service animals are to 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 a 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 not display disruptive behavior such as barking and growling and must conform to the library’s policies regarding patron behavior.
- Service animals must be housebroken and their handler is responsible for any upkeep or clean-up of the animal or facility.

ADA guidelines permit a request that a service animal be removed for noncompliance with these guidelines. Additionally, 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, the individual with the disability is welcome to stay and will be reasonably accommodated by library staff.