

Service Animals Policy

In compliance with the Federal Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA), service animals (including those in training) are welcome at the Clear Lake Public Library. Animals that are not designated as service animals including emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not permitted in the library, unless they are included in an approved library program.

The legal definition of a service animal as provided by the U. S. Department of Justice is as follows:

“Service animal means any dog or miniature horse 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. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability.”

Wisconsin’s equal rights law defines a service animal as a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is trained individually to perform tasks for someone with a disability, including the task of guiding a vision-impaired person, alerting a hearing-impaired person to intruders or sound, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

In order to assess whether or not an animal is a valid service animal, library staff may legally ask the following two questions:

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

Library staff can not legally ask about the nature of a disability or to challenge the validity of a disability.

Library staff may ask the handler to remove his or her animal, even a service animal, from the library under the following circumstances:

- The animal does not meet the legal definition of a valid service animal.
- The animal is unruly, disruptive, or exhibits aggressive behavior.
- The animal is not harnessed, leashed or similarly tethered, unless the handler is unable to do so because of a disability or the tether interferes with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of tasks, in which case the animal must still be under control (e.g., voice controls, signals, or other means).
- The animal is destructive, and the handler does not take effective action to control it.
- The animal is not house-broken.
- The animal is ill.
- The animal is unclean.
- The owner does not clean up after his or her animal.

- The animal's vaccination record is not up to date. Dogs must wear a current rabies vaccination tag.

If the service animal is removed, the handler shall be allowed to return to the library without the service animal.

Library staff may also reasonably restrict a service animal from those parts of the library where the height/weight of the service animal might jeopardize the safety of persons or property.

Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures.

Approved on February 13, 2024 by the Clear Lake Public Library Board of Trustees.