

1.5 ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY

The North Branford Library Department recognizes that service animals are dogs, and in some cases, miniature horses, which are specifically trained to assist or accommodate a person with a sensory, mental, or physical disability, or to perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. The North Branford Library Department recognizes the legal rights afforded under applicable federal and state laws regarding the use of service animals while also being considerate of the safety and well-being of all patrons and the Library staff.

It is the policy of the North Branford Library Department to prohibit all animals from entering Library facilities, excepting service animals, service animal trainees and animals featured in programs sponsored by the Library Department. Persons bringing in animals other than service animals will be asked to remove them.

Under the ADA, a service animal is any dog or miniature horse individually trained to benefit a person with a disability by assisting with the physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Emotional support animals or comfort animals are not service animals under the ADA and are prohibited by the Library Department from all facilities.

When it is not obvious what service a service animal provides, anyone bringing a service dog or miniature horse into a Library facility may be asked the following questions:

1. Is this animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task is this animal trained to provide?

Individuals with service animals may bring those animals into all areas of the Library where members of the public are normally allowed to go, unless the physical size of the animal precludes access. Owners/handlers must keep service animals with them and under their custody and control at all times. If a service animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, due to disability or interference with the performance of task(s), it must be otherwise clearly under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). Owners of service animals are solely responsible for the supervision, behavior and care of the service animal while on Library property.

Anytime a service animal is behaving in a manner incompatible with the essential purposes of the Library, staff will direct that the service animal be brought into conformity, be relocated, or leave the Library. Incompatible behavior includes barking, growling or other noise, urinating/defecating on the floor, occupying areas other than the floor, leaving the side of the owner, biting or threatening actions, or damaging Library property.

Approved by the Library Board October 9, 2019