



Animals in the Library Policy

Library patrons are prohibited from bringing animals into any library facility, with the exception of service animals accompanying a person with a disability.

As defined in federal law, a service animal is **a 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. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. **According to California law, this does not include emotional support or comfort animals.**

A staff member may ask anyone bringing an animal into a library the following questions if it is not readily apparent that the animal is a trained service animal. The owner of the dog is not required to provide documentation.

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Work or tasks include, but are not limited to:

- assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks;
- alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds;
- pulling a wheelchair;
- assisting an individual during a seizure;
- providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities;
- helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors;
- providing safety checks for individuals with posttraumatic stress disorder.

While present at any library facility, a service animal shall be under the control of its handler. Usually this means the service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether.

Anytime a service animal is behaving in a manner incompatible with the essential purposes of the library, the library will immediately require that the service animal be brought into conformity or leave the library.

Incompatible behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- barking/loud behavior;
- urinating/defecating on the floor;
- running away or otherwise leaving the side of the owner;
- biting or other threatening actions such as growling, teeth bared, lunging at others besides animal owner;
- damaging library property or the property of others;
- having an odor or visible pest infestation that interferes with the use of the library by others.