

Heyworth Public Library District Animals Policy

Animals other than trained service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are excluded from Library facilities except as part of a Library program.

Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog or miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability.

An animal whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support does not qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

Service animals must be under the full custody and control of their handler at all times and must be housebroken. Under the ADA, all service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in the Library, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the person's disability prevents use of these devices. If the service animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, it must be otherwise under the handler's control (ex. voice control, signals, or other effective means). The Library reserves the right to request that the service animal be removed from the premises if the animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control the animal. The term "out of control" includes, but is not limited to, repeated or uncontrolled barking, wandering away, growling, or otherwise threatening the safety of visitors or staff.

Protections

Users of service animals are not required to show papers or to prove a disability. Service animals are not required to be licensed or certified by a state or local government or training program, or be identified by a special harness or collar. Staff may ask two questions:

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

Staff may not ask about the owner's disability.

A person with a disability may not be asked to remove his or her service animal or service animal in training from the library unless:

- The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it.
- The animal is not housebroken or urinates or defecates in the Library.


Exceptions

The Library may have animals in the building as part of its educational and recreational offerings. Police officers may also bring official police animals inside the building when it is necessary for police business.

Adopted: March 11, 2025



President, Board of Trustees



Secretary, Board of Trustees