

NMPL Service Animal Policy

- Service animals, and service-animals-in-training, are welcome and permitted in the Library.
- Under the ADA, a service animal is an animal that has been specifically trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The animal must be trained to take a specific action to assist the person with a disability, and the task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability.
- Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained to perform a specific job or task are not considered service animals under the ADA.
- Emotional support animals, and all other animals, are not permitted in the library.
- A staff member attempting to ascertain whether an animal is a service animal will never ask about the nature of a person's disability.
- If it is not obvious that an animal brought into the library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following questions:
 - Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
 - What specific work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
- Service animals must be under the immediate control of their handlers at all times.
- Service animals which are not housebroken, excessively noisy, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises.
- Animals may never be left unattended on library grounds.
- Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures, or in library baskets or carts, and must remain on the floor or be carried (as appropriate) by their handlers at all times.
- Misrepresentation of any animal as a service animal is a violation of the library's Patron Code of Conduct, and may result in suspension of library privileges.

Reviewed and approved January 19, 2023