

Title: Service Animal Policy

Effective Date: 2/17/20

Authorized By: Library Board of Trustees

Date of Last Revision: 2/17/20

The Huntington City-Township Public Library strives to maintain a safe and equitable environment for all patrons. In order to meet the needs of patrons with disabilities we recognize the need to allow service animals in the library. This policy will outline the acceptable use of service animals in the library.

In all cases, the Library will follow Federal and State regulations regarding service animals. If regulations contradict this policy, the regulations will be enforced over the policy.

Individuals with service animals will have the right to use the library and they will not be isolated or treated less favorably than other patrons.

Recognized Service Animals

A service animal is any dog 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 considered service animals.

- Limited exceptions may be available for miniature horses
- Service animals will be considered those who are trained to do work for people with disabilities
- Only service animals required for a disability under ADA will be allowed in the library
- Service animals are not required to be identified in any way
- Service animals are not required to be licensed

Library Response

When an animal is brought into the library, staff may ask if the animal is required as a service animal for a disability and what work or task the animal is trained to perform. Staff may not ask additional questions regarding the person's disability. Staff may not require the patron to provide documentation as federal law does not require service animals to be licensed. In all cases, staff will take the patron at their word if they claim that the animal is a service animal. The library will not be responsible for providing food or water for service animals.

Behavior Rules

If an animal causes undue disruption to library operations or prohibits other patrons from using the library, staff may ask the the patron to remove the animal under the following circumstances:

- The animal is not on a leash or under control by the patron
- The animal is not housebroken

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- The animal is creating excessive noise or damaging property
- The animal is aggressive towards staff or patrons

If a service animal is not allowed in the building under any of these circumstances, library staff will assist the patron in using the library without their service animal on the premises.