

Anderson Public Library

Service Animals and Pets Policy

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to staff of the Anderson Public Library (the “Library”) regarding accommodating individuals with service animals in compliance with applicable law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended (the “ADA”), and to prohibit other animals in Library buildings.

B. DEFINITION(s)

1. Under the ADA, a “service animal” is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or tasks for an individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the individual’s disability. A service animal does not need to be professionally trained, licensed or certified as a service animal. However, service-animals-in-training are not considered service animals. Examples of service animals and the work or tasks performed are as follows:
 - a. A person with diabetes may have a dog that is trained to alert him when his blood sugar reaches high or low levels.
 - b. A person who has epilepsy may have a dog that is trained to detect the onset of a seizure and then help the person remain safe during the seizure.
 - c. A person who is blind may have a guide dog.
 - d. A person who is deaf may have a signal dog.
2. Additionally, under Indiana Code 16-32-3-1.5, a “service animal” refers to an animal trained as:
 - a. a hearing animal;
 - b. a guide animal;
 - c. an assistance animal;
 - d. a seizure alert animal;
 - e. a mobility animal;
 - f. a psychiatric service animal; or
 - g. an autism service animal.
3. Under the ADA and Indiana law, emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals.
4. A pet is a domestic or tamed animal kept for companionship or pleasure. Pets are not considered service animals.

C. POLICY

1. The Library does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Accordingly, the Library accommodates staff and customers with service animals. As required by law, service animals are permitted at all Library locations, both inside and outside the buildings.
2. Subject to the following, pets and emotional support animals are not permitted inside any Library building in public areas.

- a. Pets and emotional support animals of customers of the Library are permitted outside on Library grounds as long they are actively monitored by their owners and are in compliance with all applicable law (see C7 below).
3. If it is readily apparent that an animal is a service animal trained to perform work or tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., dog is clearly guiding a blind individual), generally Library staff shall not inquire about the animal. However, in situations where it is not obvious that the animal is a service animal, Library staff may ask only two specific questions:
 - a. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
 - b. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

If the answer to either of these questions is “no,” or “none,” respectively, then the individual may be asked to remove the animal from the Library building.

4. Staff may not ask what disabilities the individual has nor request that the individual produce any sort of “proof” that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. The ADA does not require service animals to wear a vest, ID tag, or special harness identifying them as service animals.
5. Library staff shall call authorities if an animal appears to be suffering due to conditions in an unattended vehicle.
6. Library staff shall ask an individual to remove any animal from the Library, including a service animal, if
 - a. the animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others; or
 - b. the animal is out of control (barking, growling, running around, etc.) and the owner cannot regain control; or
 - c. the animal is not housebroken.
7. All animals on Library grounds, including service animals, emotional support animals, and pets, are subject to the city or county leash ordinances, unless the leash interferes with the work or tasks being performed by the service animal or the individual's disability prevent use of the leash.
8. Nothing in this policy is to be construed to bar animals that are part of a Library program.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 11/16/2022.