

Animals in The Library Policy

It is the policy of the Amagansett Free Library to prohibit all animals from entering library facilities, with the exception of service animals, service animal trainees, and animals featured in programs sponsored by the Amagansett Free Library.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), a service animal is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The dog must be trained to do work or perform specific task(s) to assist the person with a disability, and the work or task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability.

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained to do work or perform a specific task for the person with a disability do not qualify as service animals under the ADA and will not be permitted in the library.

Employee Guidelines

- If it is not obvious that a dog brought into the library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following questions:
 - Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
 - What specific work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
- A staff member attempting to ascertain whether a dog is a service animal is prohibited from asking about the nature of a person's disability.
- A staff member attempting to ascertain whether a dog is a service animal is prohibited from asking for a special identification card or training documentation for the dog.

Service Animal Guidelines

- Service animals must be under the immediate control of their handlers at all times.
- Service animals which are not housebroken, bark excessively (as determined in the discretion of the Director or staff in charge), are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises.
- Service animals may never be left unattended on library grounds.
- Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures, or in library baskets, except as required to do work or perform task(s), and must remain on the floor or be carried (as appropriate) by their handlers at all times.
- The handler is liable for any damage to the library caused by their service animal. This includes cleaning up should the animal urinate or defecate.

Miniature Horses

- The Library will permit a person with a disability to use a miniature horse (generally ranging in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weighing between 70 and 100 pounds) who has been individually trained to do work or

perform task(s) for a person with a disability so long as (i) the miniature horse's presence does not compromise legitimate safety requirements of the Library and (ii) the person with a disability otherwise complies with the terms of this policy.

Misrepresenting a dog or miniature horse as a service animal is a violation of the library's Patron Behavior Policy, and may result in suspension of library privileges.

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