Animals in the Library

To prevent possible damage to library facilities and property, and possible injury to library users and staff, animals are not permitted in any Newport News Public Library facility, except for:

- Service animals in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and accompanying regulations. See 28 CFR § 35.104 for definition of a service animal; or
- Use or exhibition for a valid purpose, such as a library program, as determined by the library director or designee, only when such use or exhibition has been pre-approved by the library director or designee, who shall provide such approval on a case-by-case basis.

Emotional support animals are not allowed in the library.

Control of Service Animal
A service animal must be under the control of its handler. A harness, leash or other tether should be used unless:

- A disability prevents the handler from use of a harness, leash or tether; or
- The harness, leash or tether would interfere with the work of the service animal. In such cases, voice control, signals, etc. must be used.

Guidelines for Staff
In situations when it is not obvious that the dog or miniature horse is a service animal, there are only two specific questions staff are permitted to ask:

- Is the dog or miniature horse required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog or miniature horse been trained to perform?

If the dog or miniature horse has not been trained to perform work or a task, it is not a service animal and can be excluded.

Staff cannot ask for documentation proving that the dog is a service animal; require that it demonstrate its task; or ask about the nature of the person’s disability.

Removal of Service Animal
The Library may request that a service animal be removed from the facility, and further deny access, if the animal:

- Is out of control and the handler cannot regain control of the animal
- Is not housebroken, or
- Poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others

APPROVAL

NNPL Policies and Procedures