

HICKSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Service Animals

Adopted by the Board of Trustees March 28, 2018

It is the policy of the Library to afford individuals with disabilities, who require the assistance of a service animal, with equal opportunity to access Library property, programs, events and activities. This Policy sets forth the Library's policies and procedures for the presence and use of service animals on Library property.

I. DEFINITIONS.

A **service animal** is any dog or miniature horse specifically trained to perform a task for the direct 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 service animals for the purpose of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the owner's disability.

“Therapy animals” and “pets” are not service animals and, therefore, are not covered under this Policy. A therapy animal (also known as an emotional support, companion, or assistance animal) is an animal that provides emotional support or passive comfort that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of a disability. Access for therapy animals is evaluated similar to any other request for accommodation and should be directed to the designated disability services office. A pet is any animal that is not a service animal or therapy animal.

A **“Handler”** is an individual with a disability who exercises control, custody, or possession of an animal brought onto Library property.

II. WHERE SERVICE ANIMALS ARE PERMITTED.

A service animal shall be permitted in any area of the Library that its Handler is permitted to be. Employees, members and patrons of the Library are prohibited from interfering in any way with a service animal or the duties it performs, so long as the presence of the animal complies with the mandates of this Policy.

III. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS.

Employees

Employees request for reasonable accommodations, including request to have a service animal at work, are handled through the Library Director or the Librarian in charge.

Visitors

Service animals accompanying visitors or patrons with disabilities are welcome in all areas of Library property open to the public. Visitors are not required to receive permission from the Library prior to bringing a service animal onto Library property. A person with a disability who uses a service animal on Library property shall not be required to pay a fee or surcharge for the presence of their service animal. A visitor may contact the Library Director or the Librarian in charge in advance if the visitor has any questions about the rules concerning the presence of a service animal at a specific Library event, activity or program, or on Library property.