

Kewaskum Public Library
Animal Policy

It is the Policy of the Kewaskum Public Library (KPL) to prohibit all animals from entering library facilities, except for service animals, service animal trainees and animals featured in programs sponsored by KPL.

DEFINITION

Under Wisconsin law, "Service animal" means a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or is being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including the work or task of guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person with impaired hearing to intruders or sound, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." Wis. Stat. §106.52(1)(fm)

While the library occasionally presents educational programs that feature animals, members of the public may only enter the library with an animal if it is a service animal that requires accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the ADA, a service animal is a dog or other animal that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The animal must be trained to take specific action to assist the person with a disability, and the task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability.

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Because they have not been trained to perform a specific job or task, they do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

IDENTIFICATION

Not all service animals wear special collars or harnesses. Additionally, even if there is a special identification on the animal designating service, that does not mean it is a service animal. If staff are not certain that an animal is a service animal, they may ask the following questions of the person with the animal:

1. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What specific work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

A staff member attempting to ascertain whether an animal is a service animal may not ask about the nature of a person's disability.

RESPONSIBILITY

According to ADA stipulation, service animals must always be under the immediate control of their handlers.

Therefore, service animals which are not housebroken, bark repeatedly, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises. A service animal may be excluded from the library if the animal is out of control and the animal's owner does not take effective action to control it, or the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Animals may never be left unattended on library grounds.

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Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures and must remain on the floor or be always carried (as appropriate) by their handlers.

Misrepresenting an animal as a service animal is a violation of the library's Patron Code of Conduct, and may result in suspension of library privileges