

City of Milwaukie
Ledding Library

Service Animal Policy

This policy is designed to conform to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Its provisions will be interpreted accordingly.

Service animals are allowed in the library when specifically trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, and those in training to do so. Service animals must remain under the control of their handler at all times. Animals that are not under control will be asked to leave the library. Examples of out-of-control behavior include but are not limited to not being housebroken, repeated barking and other aggressive actions.

For the safety and comfort of library patrons, pets, companion animals, and therapy animals are not permitted in the library.

City staff may allow other animals into the library as a part of an official event, such as the Read to the Dog program.

Definitions

Service Animal

Under the ADA, a service animal has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed must be directly related to the person's disability.

Under Control of the Handler

The ADA requires that service animals be under the control of the handler at all times. In most instances, the handler will be the individual with a disability or a third party who accompanies the individual with a disability.

Leashing

The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the person's disability prevents use of these devices. In that case, the person must use voice, signal, or other effective means to maintain control of the animal. Examples that may seem to violate this policy but do not include:

- (1) A person that uses a wheelchair may use a long, retractable leash to allow their service animal to pick up or retrieve items. They may not allow the dog to wander away from them and must maintain control of the dog, even if the dog is retrieving an item at a distance.

Revised March 22, 2023

Reference: <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/#general-rules>

(2) A person who has PTSD and has great difficulty entering unfamiliar spaces may have a dog that is trained to enter a space, check to see that no threats are present, and return to signal that it is safe to enter. The dog must be off leash to do its job but must be leashed at other times.

Barking

Under control also means that a service animal must not bark repeatedly in the library. If a dog barks just once, barks to alert its handler to a threat, or barks due to being provoked by a third party, this would not mean that the dog is out of control.

Identification

The ADA does not require service animals to wear a vest, ID tag, or specific harness.