



# PUYALLUP *Public* LIBRARY

Est. 1913

324 South Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98371 | www.puyalluplibrary.org

TITLE: ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY	POLICY NUMBER: 16.1
EFFECTIVE: APRIL, 2016	REVIEW DATE: APRIL, 2019
AUTHORIZED BY: LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES	

1. Purpose: The Puyallup Public Library (hereafter referred to as PPL) recognizes that patrons with disabilities may have service animals that are trained to assist or accommodate a person with a sensory, mental or physical disability. PPL recognizes legal rights under Federal and State law regarding the use of service animals.
2. Scope: This policy applies to the staff and patrons of PPL.
3. Definitions and Background:
  - a. RCW 49.60.040 states that “Service animal” means an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a sensory, mental, or physical disability of a person with a disability.”
  - b. The effects of an animal’s presence as comforting and/or the provision of emotional support, comfort, well-being or companionship do not constitute work or tasks and such animals are not defined as service animals.
  - c. Service animals are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task an animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability.
4. Policy:
  - a. No pets or animals other than service animals or service animals in training, as defined above, are allowed at PPL. Owners of pets will be asked to remove them from the library.
  - b. Individuals with disabilities may bring their service animals into all areas of the library where the public is normally allowed to go. All service animals must be under the full custody and control of their handler at all times. Also, all service animals must be in a leash or harness at all times unless the handler is unable to leash or harness because of a disability or use of a leash or harness would interfere with the safe, effective performance of work or tasks. If the service animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, it must be otherwise under the control of their handler at all times (e.g. voice controls, signals, or other effective means). Owners of the service animals are solely responsible for the care and supervision of the animal and must keep the animal with them at all times.

- c. Owners are required to indicate if asked by a staff member that it is a working animal trained to perform a specific service related to its owners' disability. Staff may not ask about the owner's disability. Staff may only ask the following: : (1) is the animal a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has it been trained to perform.
  - d. A person with a disability may not be asked to remove his or her service animal or service animal in training from the library unless its presence, behavior or actions constitutes an unreasonable risk of injury or harm to property or other persons or the animal is disruptive and the owner does not take effective action to control it. In these cases, library staff must give the person with the disability the option to obtain library services without having the service animal on the premises. Service animals may not be groomed, fed, or given other types of care that would create a nuisance in the library building.
  - e. Fear of allergies, annoyance on the part of other patrons or employees or fear of animals are generally not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals or service animals in training.
5. Citations and Related References:
- a. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Title II, Section 35.136 (Revised September 15, 2010; March 5, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under Titles II and III)
  - b. RCW 49.60.215 and RCW 49.60.040

Adopted by the City of Puyallup Library Board of Trustees, April 18, 2016

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President, Library Board of Trustees

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Date