

BOARD POLICIES

ANIMALS ON LIBRARY PROPERTY

Category: Operational

Approved: October 2007

Revised: February 28, 2024

It is the policy of the Rocky River Public Library to prohibit all animals from entering library facilities, with the exception of service animals, service animal trainees and animals featured in programs sponsored by the Rocky River Public Library.

A service animal is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act as any dog individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Animals other than dogs, except for trained miniature horses and monkeys subject to certain limitations, do not qualify as service animals according to federal or state law. Dogs that are used purely for emotional support are not considered service animals in terms of public accommodations.

Library staff has the right to ask the animal's handler (1) if the animal is a service animal required because of a disability (2) what work or task has the animal been trained to perform. Staff may not ask about the owner's disability and the handler is not required to produce documentation about the service animal or to prove a disability. The service animal must be under control of the owner at all times. Service animals that are uncontrolled, bark excessively, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises.

Animals should not be left tied up or otherwise unattended on library property. Police may be called if an owner is not present and controlling the animal.