

SERVICE ANIMALS

It is the policy of The Smithtown Library to permit "service animals" (not pets or "comfort" animals) within the Library in accordance with federal and state law.

Service Animals are to be defined as working animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks/duties for people with disabilities. The work/task/duties a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability.

The animal must be under the handler's control at all times. Library staff may require that the animal be removed from the premises if the animal is out of control, agitated, aggressive, or otherwise threatens the health, safety and welfare of staff or patrons and the animal's handler does not take effective immediate measures to control the animal.

The service animal must be restrained with a harness, leash or tether unless such restraint interferes with the animal's performance of its work or tasks. When a restraint is not used, the service animal must be within the control of the handler through such measures as voice control, signals, or other effective controls.

Service animals are not permitted to sit on Library furniture, indoor or out.

The animal must be housebroken and limit relief to outdoor areas. The animal's handler is responsible for prompt removal and disposal of waste.

When it is not obvious that an animal is a service animal, Library staff may ask only two specific questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the animal been trained to perform? Staff are not permitted to request any documentation regarding the animal; require that the animal demonstrate its task; or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.