

West Hartford Public Library POLICY MANUAL

Title: Service Animals Policy

Revised September 24, 2018

Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, accompanied by their owners or persons training a dog as a guide dog, are welcome in the buildings of the West Hartford Public Library, provided that the dog is under the control of the owner or handler at all times, using a leash, harness, or voice or other effective signals. The owner/handler of any dog exhibiting threatening behaviors, causing a disturbance, or damaging library or personal property of library patrons will be asked to remove the animal from the library.

No other animals are allowed into library buildings unless they are part of a library-sponsored event.

***Service animals are defined as dogs that 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 a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Revised and approved by the Library Board, September 24, 2018, June 23, 2014; November 9, 2009.
Replaces *Guide and Assistance Dog Policy*, adopted by the West Hartford Library Board, February 25, 2003.