

**PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD POLICY**

Policy: Animals in the Library	Policy number:
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Approved By Policy Committee: 10/8/25	Approved by the Board: 10/16/25
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Purpose: To establish a policy for animals in the library

Policy: Animals are not permitted in the library, with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals in training, or animals present for library programming purposes.

Emotional support animals, which may also be referred to as therapy animals, assistance animals, or comfort animals, are not protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and are not permitted in the library.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as any dog, and in some cases a miniature horse, that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

Owners of the service animal are solely responsible for the supervision and care of the service animal and must keep the animal with them at all times. A person with a disability may be asked to remove a service animal if:

- The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it,
- The animal is not housebroken,
- The animal's behavior is a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others.

Fear, allergies or annoyance on the part of patrons or employees are not valid reasons for denying access to individuals with service animals.

If a service animal is excluded from the library, the individual with the disability is welcome to stay and will be reasonably accommodated by library staff.

Procedures:

Library staff has the right to ask the animal's handler:

1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What task or work has the dog been trained to do?

The animal is not required to wear a vest, ID tag, or specific harness. Staff are not allowed to request any documentation, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.