



VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

The Vestal Public Library (VPL) considers the safety and health of all of its patrons, the public, and library staff to be of utmost priority and recognizes that VPL patrons may require the assistance of service animals.

“Service Animals” are defined as animals that are trained to assist or accommodate a person with a sensory, mental or physical disability or to perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled individual. VPL recognizes legal rights under federal and state laws regarding use of service animals.

According to the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person with a disability may bring a service animal (dogs or miniature horses) with them into the library. Service Animal handlers must have their charge under full custody and control at all times by harness, leash, tether, unless such devices interfere with the service animals work or the owner’s disability prevents using such devices, then the individual must maintain control using other means such as voice, signal, or other means. The owners have sole responsibility for the supervision and care of their service animal while in the library.

Owners of service animals are not required to have a license, to show papers or to prove a disability and may not be asked to provide documentation. Pets, therapy animals and comfort animals are not allowed in the library.

If unsure of whether or not an animal is a service animal, library staff may ask:

1. If the animal is a service animal required because of a disability
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to do
3. The staff may never ask what a person’s disability is

If a service animal is unruly, disruptive or not house trained, the owner may be asked to remove the animal.

Fear of animals, allergies, presumed outcomes, or annoyance on the part of other patrons are not permissible reasons for denying access or for refusing library service to people with a service animal.

Library-Sponsored Programs

The library at times may choose to offer programs to patrons that include the presence of an animal or multiple animals. These animals are permitted in the library for the time of the program and their owners must be with them at all times.



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Violation of Policy

Owners of pets will be asked to remove them from the inside of the library.

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