



Animals in the Library Policy

Animals are not allowed inside the Library unless they are service animals (see below), part of a library program, or a library mascot.

The Barrington Public Library allows individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals (or personal assistance animals) in accordance with RI General Law 40-9.1-5 (a), Therapy Pets in Public Places, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

A personal assistance animal is a dog that has been trained (or is in the process of being trained) as a:

- Guide Dog specially trained to aid a particular person who is blind or visually impaired.
- Hearing Dog specially trained to aid a particular person who is deaf or hearing impaired.
- Service Dog specially trained to aid a particular person with another type of disability.

A service animal is a dog (or miniature horse) that has been trained to perform disability-related tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability to include, but not limited to, psychiatric service animals, seizure alert animals, and allergen alert animals.

Staff may **not** ask for certification, identification, or proof of an animal's training or status but may ask if it is a service animal and what tasks it performs for its owner.

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of the definition under the ADA. Therefore, comfort animals, emotional support animals, or therapy animals are not service animals and are not covered by the ADA. Although there are psychiatric service dogs, they are not the same as a comfort or therapy animal.

It is a violation of RI General Law 40-9.1-3.1 for any individual to misrepresent a pet or any other animal as a service animal when attempting to gain access to or remain in a public area.

Service animals are not allowed to roam freely. They must have a harness, leash, or be controlled by voice control or signals.

Under the ADA, the Library reserves the right to exclude any service or personal assistance animal if it poses a direct threat to the health and safety of the public, such as excessive barking or aggressive behavior. A service animal may be excluded if it is not housebroken or if its behavior cannot be controlled by its handler.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees, October 17, 2019