



Uintah County Library Service Animals Policy

Uintah County Library Policy on Service Animals

Animals, other than service animals, are not permitted in the Uintah County Library, unless as a part of a program authorized by a library director.

Service Animals

Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

Service animals may be asked to leave the library under circumstances that include the following:

- ~~The animal is unruly, disruptive, or exhibits aggressive behavior.~~
- ~~An animal that behaves disruptively has not been trained successfully to function as a service animal in public settings. In such cases, the animal need not be treated as a service animal, even if the animal performs assistive functions for a person with a disability.~~
- ~~The animal is not on a leash. Service animals are expected to be on a leash and controlled by the owner at all times.~~
- ~~The animal is destructive.~~
- ~~The animal is ill.~~
- ~~The animal is unclean.~~
- ~~The owner does not clean up after his or her animal.~~
- ~~The animal's vaccination record is not up to date. All animals must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Dogs must wear a current rabies vaccination tag.~~

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This policy ensures that the Uintah County Library complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements regarding service animals while maintaining a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for all library users.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. In accordance with the ADA, service animals are welcome in all areas of the Uintah County Library that are open to the public. Animals other than service animals are not permitted in the library unless they are part of a program authorized by a library director.

3. DEFINITION OF SERVICE ANIMALS

- 3.1. According to the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually

trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. In some cases, a miniature horse may also qualify as a service animal. Tasks performed by service animals may include, but are not limited to:

- Guiding individuals with impaired vision
- Alerting individuals with impaired hearing to sounds
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Retrieving dropped items
- Providing stability assistance
- Alerting to and protecting a person during a seizure
- Interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors
- Reminding a person to take prescribed medications

3.2. The work or task a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

4. SERVICE ANIMAL ACCESS

4.1. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, staff may ask only the following two questions:

4.1.1. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?

4.1.2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

4.2. Staff may not:

- Ask about the person's disability
- Require medical documentation
- Require special identification cards or training documentation for the service animal
- Ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task

5. BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE ANIMALS

5.1. To ensure a safe and pleasant environment for all library users and staff, the following behavioral guidelines for service animals must be observed.

5.2. **Handler Control:** Service animals must remain in close physical proximity to their handler and under the handler's direct control at all times. If voice, signal, or other effective controls are used, they must ensure the animal remains attentive to the handler.

5.3. **Leash Requirement:** Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In those cases, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

5.4. Disruptive Behavior: Service animals must not display disruptive behavior such as continuous barking, growling, snarling, or threatening behavior toward other patrons or staff.

5.5. Cleanliness: Service animals must be clean and free of odor. The animal's owner/handler is responsible for immediately cleaning up after the animal, including properly disposing of waste.

5.6. Health: Service animals must appear to be in good health and have all vaccinations required by local ordinances. Dogs must wear a current rabies vaccination tag.

6. REMOVAL OF SERVICE ANIMALS

6.1. A service animal may be asked to leave the library if:

6.1.1. The animal is out of control, and the handler does not take effective action to control it.

6.1.2. The animal is not housebroken.

6.1.3. The animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

6.1.4. The animal is destructive to library property.

6.1.5. The animal is disruptive in a way that fundamentally alters library services.

6.2. If a service animal is removed from the premises, library staff will offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain library services without the animal present.

7. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1. Library staff are not required to provide care, food, or a special location for the service animal. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of the owner/handler.

8. CONFLICTING DISABILITIES

8.1. If a library patron or staff member has a severe allergy or other condition exacerbated by the presence of a service animal, library staff will make reasonable efforts to accommodate both individuals, such as assigning them to different areas of the library.

9. PUBLIC EDUCATION

9.1. The library will make this policy available to the public on its website and in print upon request.

10. POLICY REVIEW

10.1. This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ADA regulations and to incorporate any changes in federal, state, or local laws.

This policy supersedes all previous versions and will be reviewed every three years or as needed.

Approved by the Uintah County Library Board of Directors.

Date

Adopted: April 22, 2009

Date Amended: May 21, 2025

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