



CHAPTER 8: SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 10, 2018

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (28 CFR 35.136) and Wyoming State Statute (§ 35-13-201), service animals are welcomed and permitted in all Natrona County Library facilities. The Library also welcomes service animals in training. The Library expects service animals to display proper social behavior skills and manners while in the Library facilities or on the Library grounds. Service animals are expected to work calmly, quietly, and should be on a leash at all times except as indicated below. Similarly, service animal owners are expected to interact with their service animal in a quiet and calm manner.

The Library is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.

Definition of a Service Animal:

According to 28 CFR 35.136, *service animal* is defined as

Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Examples of service animals include, but are not limited to:

- Hearing dogs, which alert their handlers to sounds such as doorbells;
- Guide dogs, which help those who are visually impaired to navigate safely;
- Psychiatric service animals, which can interrupt self-harming behaviors, remind handlers to take medication, or provide calming pressure during panic attacks;
- Seizure alert animals, which let their handlers know of impending seizures, and may also guard their handlers during seizure activity; and
- Allergen alert animals, which let their handlers know of foods that contain allergens such as peanuts.

In order to help maintain a pleasant, productive, and safe environment for all Library users and staff, the following behavioral guidelines for all service animals are to be observed:

- Service animals must be in the immediate physical proximity of and under control of their handler at all times.
- Service animals may not be left unattended by their handler at any time.
- Service animals must be on a leash or harness at all times, unless the use of a leash or harness interferes with the animal's effective performance of its designated task(s). If the animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, it must be under the handler's control via voice, signals, or other effective means at all times.
- Service animals must not display disruptive behavior such as barking and growling.
- Service animals must be housebroken and their handler is responsible for any upkeep or clean-up of the animal.

In further compliance with 28 CFR 35.136(i), the Library will permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability, and they meet the following assessment factors:

- The miniature horse should range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders;
- The miniature horse should weigh between 70 and 100 pounds;
- The handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- The miniature horse is housebroken; and
- The miniature horse's presence in the Library does not compromise legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

Exceptions / Removal of a Service Animal:

If at any time service animal's behaviors or actions pose an unreasonable or direct threat to the health or safety of others, or if the service animal does not conform to these guidelines, it may not remain in a Library facility. In accordance with ADA guidelines, non-compliance of guidelines can be grounds for a request to remove a service animal from a Library facility.

If a service animal is excluded from a Library facility, the individual with the disability is welcomed to stay and participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises. The individual with the disability will be reasonably accommodated by Library staff.

Exclusions:

Neither the ADA nor Wyoming's service animal law includes what some people call "emotional support animals": animals that provide a sense of safety, companionship, and comfort to those with psychiatric, emotional disabilities or conditions, or who are lonely. Although these animals often have therapeutic benefits, they are not individually trained to perform specific tasks for their handlers. The effects of an animal's presence as comforting and/or the provision of emotional support, comfort, well-being or companionship do not constitute work or tasks and such animals are not defined as service animals. As such, these animals are not permitted in Natrona County Library facilities.

§ 35-13-203(b). Misrepresentation of a service or assistance animal; penalties

(b) Any person who knowingly and intentionally misrepresents that an animal is a service animal or an assistance animal for the purpose of obtaining any of the rights or privileges set forth in this article is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).

References:

*Code of Federal Regulations 28 CFR 35.104; 28 CFR 35.136; 28 CFR 36.104; and 28 CFR 36.302.
Wyoming State Statutes: 35-13-201; 35-13-203; 35-13-204; and 35-13-205.*