



Animals in the Library

The Hampshire County Public Library recognizes the importance of pets to our patrons and is happy to offer a pet-friendly environment. However, in recognition that our primary purpose is to serve as a public setting for patrons to study, hold meetings, and search for information, we offer the following guidelines for pets in the Library:

- All pets must be under the immediate control of their owners at all times.
- No pets with a history of aggression are allowed in the Library.
- Pets which are not housebroken, bark excessively, are uncontrolled or are otherwise disruptive will be asked to leave the Library.
- Pets are not allowed on Library furniture.
- Animals may never be left unattended on Library grounds.
- Patrons who refuse to follow these guidelines will be considered to be in violation of the HCPL Patron Conduct policy.

It should be noted that service animals are not pets. Per the ADA, **“Service animals are defined as animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.** Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task an 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.”

- Service animals are allowed to go anywhere in the library that a patron would go.
- If it is not obvious that an animal is a service animal, staff may only ask the following two questions:
 - 1. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?**
 - 2. What specific work or task has the animal been trained to perform?**
- Staff may not ask about the person’s disability, require medical documentation, ask for training paperwork for the animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its training.
- Service animals which are not housebroken, are excessively loud, are uncontrolled or are otherwise disruptive will be asked to leave the library.

Patrons of the library with allergies to or a fear of a service animal may request assistance from Library staff to identify a different location to do their work.