

The Library will comply with Americans with Disabilities Act's regulations for organizations that serve the public concerning the presence of service animals. Service animals are defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The dog must be trained to take a specific action to assist the person with a disability, and the task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability. Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained to perform a specific job or task do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks.

Service animals are permitted in all Lorain Public Library System facilities.

If it is not obvious that a dog brought into the library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following questions:

Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?

What specific work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

A staff member attempting to ascertain whether a dog is a service animal will never ask about the nature of a person's disability. Service animals must be under the immediate control of their handlers at all times.

Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures, or in library baskets or carts, and must remain on the floor or be carried (as appropriate) by their handlers at all times. Service animals which are not housebroken, bark excessively, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises. Clean up is the responsibility of the animal provider.

The Library may sponsor a program where animals are present. When that is the case, adequate liability insurance must be provided in advance to the Chief Fiscal Officer by the individual/group supplying the animals.