



Brookline Public Library

16 Main St. Brookline, NH 03033

Policy Title:	Animals Policy
Date of Latest Policy Revision:	April 2025
Next Policy Review Date:	April 2028

Policy:

The Brookline Public Library will allow animals to be present in the building only under the following circumstances:

- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by a service animal
- Animals that are part of library-approved educational programming

Pets and emotional support animals are not permitted in the library.

Guidelines for staff regarding service animals:

- If a staff member is not certain that an animal is a service animal, he or she may ask the following: 1. Whether or not the animal is required because of a disability and 2. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform. Staff may NOT ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card, training documentation for the animal, require proof of vaccination or ask that the animal perform the subject work or task.
- A service animal accompanying an individual with a disability shall be permitted in any area that is unrestricted to visitors.
- Library staff may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if: 1. the animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or 2. the animal is not housebroken.

Guidelines for staff regarding animals that are part of educational programming (either inside the library or outside on library grounds):

- Educational programming that involves animals must be approved in advance by the Library Director.
- Prior to the event, staff shall confirm with the handlers that all animals are up-to-date on all required registrations and health requirements.
- If programming occurs off library grounds, written permission and a waiver of liability from the property owner is required.

Definitions:

Service animal- any dog (or a miniature horse) 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. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task of a service animal must be directly related to the person’s disability. Examples of such tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person to take prescribed medications or calming a person during an anxiety attack. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA)- assists in a different way than service animals do. The individual's mental health professional has determined that the presence of the animal is necessary for the person with a disability and their mental health and has written a prescription stating the animal is necessary in the person's home. Little or no training is required. The owner of an emotional support animal has no more rights than any other pet owner to take their emotional support animal with them into a public facility.

Animal- a living organism that feeds on organic matter, typically having specialized sense organs and nervous system and able to respond rapidly to stimuli. This includes, but is not limited to, dogs, cats, insects, birds, livestock, reptiles, fish, and amphibians.

References:

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Accommodations and Services
28 C.F.R., Part 36

Review/Revision History	Reviewed and approved by	Revision Description
April 2025	Brookline Board of Library Trustees	Policy created

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