



## Service Animals and Pets Policy

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), a “service animal” is defined as “dogs that are 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.” The dog must be trained to perform a task that is directly related to the individual’s disability. The service animal does not need to be professionally trained, licensed or certified, as a service animal; service animals in training are not considered service animals. This definition and explanation are regulations set by the Department of Justice for Title II and Title III of the ADA.

Under Indiana Law a “service animal” is defined as an animal trained as: a hearing animal, a guide animal, an assistant animal, a seizure alert animal, a mobility animal, a psychiatric service animal, or an autism service animal. Under both ADA and Indiana Laws, emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals. Pets are domestic or trained animals kept for companionship or pleasure, making them not considered a service animal.

The Starke County Public Library System (“SCPLS”) does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. SCPLS accommodates staff and patrons with service animals. As required by law, service animals are permitted at all SCPLS locations, both inside and outside the buildings. Pets and emotional support animals are not permitted inside any SCPLS building; patrons may bring their pet or emotional support animal on SCPLS grounds, as long as they remain outside, are actively accompanied by an adult owner and are in compliance with all applicable laws. Per the City of Knox, the animal must be restrained by a leash or chain, no longer than 10 feet in length, and in control of the owner, keeper, or custodian. They also must pick up after their animal (Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3-26).

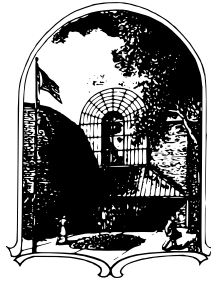
If a patron enters any SCPLS location with an animal and it is apparent that the animal is a service animal trained to perform work or tasks for an individual with a disability, generally the staff shall not inquire about the animal. However, in situations where it is not obvious that the animal is a service animal, staff may ask only two specific questions:

- a. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
- b. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

If the answer is “no,” or “none,” respectively, then the individual may be asked to remove the animal from the building.

# Starke County Public Library System

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Staff may not ask what disabilities the individual has nor request that the individual produce any sort of “proof” that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animals. The ADA does not require service animals to wear a vest, ID tag, or special harness identifying them as service animals.

Staff may ask an individual to remove any animal from the building, including service animals if:

- a. The animal’s behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
- b. The animal is out of control (barking, growling, running around, etc.), and the owner cannot regain control;
- c. The animal is not housebroken.

The Library may have programming that allows animals in the building; this policy is not to be construed to bar animals that are part of these programs.

Adopted by the SCPLS Board of Trustees 2/12/2019

Henry F. Schricker Main Library  
Branches at Hamlet, Koontz Lake, and San Pierre  
<http://scpls.org>