

Rahway Public Library - Service Animals Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Rahway Public Library adopted the following policy to ensure that the library is a safe, clean and friendly place for the entire community.

As a general rule, animals are not allowed in the library or on library property. Animal control authorities may be contacted for assistance with any animal left unattended on library property.

The only exception to this rule are trained service animals, which are welcome into the Rahway Public Library.

1. While an animal may be present at the Library when it occasionally presents educational programs that feature animals, members of the public may only enter the Library with an animal that is a service animal, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the ADA, a service animal is an animal that has been specifically trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Under the ADA a service animal can only be a miniature horse or a dog. The animal 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.
2. Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals that have not been trained to perform a specific job or task do not qualify as service animals under the ADA, and are not permitted in the Library.
3. If it is not obvious that an animal brought into the Library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following 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?
 - A staff member attempting to ascertain whether an animal is a service animal can not inquire about the nature of a person's disability.
4. A service animal must be well-behaved and in the immediate vicinity of the person they are serving at all times. Service animals that are not housebroken make excessive noise, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises. Patrons will be responsible for any damage to library property that their service animal does.

5. 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 the person they are serving at all times.
6. Misrepresenting an animal as a service animal is a violation of the Public Behavior and Rules of Conduct Policy and may result in suspension of Library privileges.