

Number: LIB-013P
Title: SERVICE ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY

1. PURPOSE & INTENT

This policy is designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of library students, faculty, staff and the general public. In accordance with Florida Statutes service animals belonging to persons with disabilities are allowed inside the USF Libraries.

2. STATEMENT OF GUIDELINE

All animals brought into the library must be under physical restraint. The animal must be under complete control of and physically restrained by the owner/responsible party who is also responsible for ensuring the animal is safe and healthy.

Definition of terms:

1. Eligible person – a person with a disability who because of a functional limitation of his/her disabling condition requires a Service Animal to perform a task or function.
2. Service Animal – defined by ADA Act, Service Animals are dogs or miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.
3. Emotional Support Animal – an animal whose sole function is to provide emotional support. Emotional support animals do not qualify as service animals under ADA without accompanying medical note.
4. Assistance Animal – animals that work, provide assistance, or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with disability, or animals that provide emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.
5. Approved Animal – USF Students with Disabilities Services or Human Resources has determined the person with a disability has established their eligibility for reasonable accommodation and the animal's qualifications

Pet animals are to remain only on lawns and walking routes on campus and are not permitted in the library with exceptions:

- Law Enforcement Animals
- Visiting or registered Service and Assistance Animals
- Unruly or disruptive service animals
- Therapy Animals
- Research Animals

Making Inquiries Library employees may verify the qualifications of the animal by asking:

- Is this a Service Dog?
- What task(s) does the dog perform?

Library employees may NOT ask:

- Ask about person's disability
- Discriminate or charge extra fees because of the service dog, regardless of breed or size
- Require proof of training

These guidelines cover all USF Libraries. Services, equipment, and location may vary.