

Can I bring my service animal into the library?



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Service animals, as recognized by the State of Oregon and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are welcome in public buildings as long as they meet ADA guidance (outlined below):

- 1. The state of Oregon, following ADA guidance, ONLY recognizes dogs as service animals.** 'Emotional support' animals are NOT recognized as service animals. NDLD patrons are not allowed to "bring animals (other than service animals or those involved in library programs) into the library or leave animals unattended on library property." [Source: <https://www.oregon.gov/das/Policies/107-011-150.pdf> & NDLD Code of Conduct, <https://www.ndld.org/policies>]
- 2. Service animals are required by the ADA to be "under the control of the handler at all times".** Service animals do not need to wear identification. [Source: https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html]
- 3. If a service animal is being disruptive, staff may request the animal leave the premises.** The North Douglas Library District offers curbside service with accommodations for all library resources for any patron unable to enter the building. [Source: https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html]
- 4. According to ADA, staff ARE allowed to ask two questions:**
 - (1) Is the service animal required because of a disability?
 - (2) What work or task has it been trained to perform?
- 5. Staff are NOT allowed to request documentation, require the service animal to demonstrate its task, or inquire about the handler's disability.**

Definition of Service/Assistance Animals:

The state of Oregon, following guidance from ADA, ONLY recognizes dogs as service animals. Miniature horses (under 34 inches at the withers) can be exceptions under specific circumstances. [Source: <https://www.oregon.gov/das/Policies/107-011-150.pdf>]

A service animal, as defined by ADA, is "a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability". [Source: https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html]

'Emotional support' animals, which provide a sense of safety, companionship, and/or comfort, are NOT recognized as service animals by either ADA or the state of Oregon. 'Psychiatric service animals' are considered service animals because they have been trained for a specific tasks (such as: interrupting self-harming behaviors, reminding handlers to take medication, checking spaces for intruders, providing calming pressure during anxiety or panic attack, etc). [Source: <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/oregon-laws-on-service-dogs-and-emotional-support-animals.html>]

Service/Assistance Animals in Public Buildings:

Service animals are allowed in public buildings, but they are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to be "under the control of the handler at all times". Service animals "must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the person's disability prevents use of these devices. In that case, the person must use voice, signal, or other effective means to maintain control of the animal." Service animals do not need to wear identification. [Source: https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html]

North Douglas Library District Policy:

Service animals are welcome. Patrons are not allowed to "bring animals (other than service animals or those involved in library programs) into the library or leave animals unattended on library property." [Source: NDLD Code of Conduct, <https://www.ndld.org/policies>]