



## ALTADENA LIBRARY DISTRICT | POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

**SUBJECT:** Service Animals in the Library

**SECTION:** Library Operations

**BOARD APPROVED:** February 24, 2020

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### **PURPOSE:**

The ALD strives to provide a safe and welcome environment for everyone. Therefore, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are allowed to accompany their handlers anywhere individuals with disabilities are allowed to enter.

### **POLICY:**

The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division states:

“Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.” (ADA Requirements: Service Animals. (2011, July 12). Retrieved April 30, 2018, from [https://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm))

Additionally, miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities are allowed to serve as service animals under the U.S. Department of Justice’s ADA regulations.

Only service animals are allowed in the library.

- Service animals are only dogs and miniature horses. Therefore, any other type of animal is not allowed in the library.
- Pets, therapy animals, and comfort animals are not allowed in the library.
- A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual’s disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.