



Service Animals Policy

Wharton County Library complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in allowing the use of service animals by students, staff, and visitors while using the Library Services. Below is information describing the policies, procedures and offices responsible for evaluating and approving the use of service animals and support animals in our Library System.

A Service Animal is a dog (sometimes referred to as a guide dog or signal dog) that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. All other types of animals do not qualify as a service animal. The work or task a service animal has been trained to do must be directly related to the individual's disability. For example, a guide dog who assists an individual who is blind with navigation, a dog who alerts a person who is deaf, or a dog who retrieves items for a person using a wheelchair. Similarly, a person with a seizure disorder may use a service animal that is trained to detect when the individual is going to have a seizure and or remind them to take their medication. Service animals are typically allowed to accompany the individual with a disability wherever they go, including to class, work, eateries, public transportation, residences, etc.

Service dogs which are trained to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities are welcome in the Library.

Service animals should be carried on the floor, but not sitting on furniture. If a service animal behaves in a way that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, has a history of such behavior, is not under the control of the handler, or is not housebroken, that animal may be excluded. The Library will still serve the patron without the animal present.

The Library may choose to offer educational programs for the public that include various animals. Such animals are permitted in the Library for the duration of the program and must be accompanied by the owner at all times.

- Texas Law: provides that people with disabilities may not be required to show **proof** of certification for their service animal. Public establishments may only ask if the service animal is required because the person has a disability and what type of work the service animal is trained to perform.

Other (non-service) animals are not permitted in the Library.

Elene Gedeveni, MLS, MA _____ September 28, 2021
Wharton County Library Director