



Service Animal Policy

Background and General Information

The Granby Public Library welcomes service animals and animals invited for special programs to enter the Library facilities.

Definitions

“Service Animal” is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as any service dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. “Service animal” is limited to the animals defined under the ADA and does not include any other species of animal, wild or domestic, trained or untrained. “Service animal” does not include an animal used or relied upon for crime deterrence, emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship. Members of the public who bring animals into the library that do not fall into the above definitions will be asked to remove them from the library.

“Handler”- any blind, deaf, or mobility impaired person or a service animal trainer.

“Trainer”- any person training a service animal. Trainers must be employed and/or authorized to engage in training activities by a guide or assistance dog organization that complies with criteria for membership in a professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools. The trainer must also carry photographic identification indicating employment and authorization.

Policy

Service animals must always be on a harness or use an orange-colored leash and collar. Other identifiers may include tags, ear tattoos, bandanas for puppies and coats for adult dogs. The animal’s handler is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the service animal and must always be in full control of the animal. Therefore, owners must always keep the service animal directly with them. Connecticut law does not require proof that a dog is being used to help a person with disabilities. All service animals should be licensed by their residing town.

The Library staff has the right to ask the animal’s handler the following two questions *1. Is this a service animal?*
2. What is the animal’s function for you?

The Library retains discretion to exclude or remove a service animal from Library property if the animal exhibits incompatible behaviors including, but not limited to:

- The service animal is out of control and/or the service animal’s handler does not effectively control the service animal’s behavior
- The service animal is not housebroken
- The service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable modifications
- Permitting the service animal would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program or activity

The animal's handler will be responsible for any damage to Library or personal property and any injuries to individuals caused by the service animal. Anyone using a service animal on Library property will hold the Library and Town of Granby harmless and indemnify the Library and Town of Granby from any such damages.

References

§ 46a-44. Access of guide and assistance dogs to modes of public transportation and in places of public accommodation. Intentional interference with guide or assistance dogs or trainers or blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons

(a) As used in this section, (1) "disability" and "service animal" have the same meanings as provided in section 22-345; and (2) "person training an animal as a service animal" means a person who (A) (i) is employed by an organization that trains service animals, (ii) complies with the criteria for membership in a professional association of schools that train service animals, (iii) is authorized to engage in designated training activities, and (iv) carries photographic identification indicating such employment and authorization, or (B) volunteers for an organization that (i) trains service animals, and (ii) authorizes volunteers to raise animals to become service animals.

(b) Any person with a disability or any person training an animal as a service animal to assist a person with a disability may travel on a train or on any other mode of public transportation, and may enter any other place of public accommodation that caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public, including but not limited to, any public building, inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist cabin, place of amusement, resort or any facility of any such public accommodation, accompanied by such person's service animal, and such person may keep such service animal with him or her at all times in any such public accommodation or facility thereof at no extra charge, provided such service animal shall be in the direct custody and control of such person.

(c) Any person with a disability or any person training an animal as a service animal for a person with a disability shall be entitled to visit any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement or a dwelling as a guest of a lawful occupant thereof, accompanied by such person's service animal, and such person may keep such service animal with him or her at all times in such public accommodation, resort, amusement or dwelling at no extra charge, provided such service animal shall be in the direct custody and control of such person. No such person with a disability or person training an animal as a service animal shall be charged any fee not applicable alike to all guests, provided the owner of such service animal shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such service animal. For the purposes of this subsection, (1) a "place of public accommodation, resort or amusement" means any establishment which caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public, including, but not limited to, any commercial building lot, on which it is intended that a commercial property or building will be constructed or offered for sale or rent, and (2) "dwelling" means any building, structure, mobile manufactured home park or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, mobile manufactured home park or portion thereof, provided the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to (A) the rental of a room or rooms in a single-family dwelling unit, if the owner actually maintains and occupies part of such living quarters as the owner's residence, or (B) a unit in a dwelling containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than two families living independently of each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies the other such living quarters as the owner's residence.

(d) Any person who intentionally interferes with the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, including, but not limited to, any action intended to harass or annoy the person with a disability or the person training an animal as a service animal, or who denies the rights afforded to a person with a disability or person training an animal as a service animal under subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor, provided such person with a disability or person training an animal as a service animal complies with the applicable provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of this section.

Adopted by the Library Board- December 9, 2024