



# Plum Borough Community Library

**Policy Title:** Animals in Library Policy

**Date Issued:** *Passed at May 20, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting.*

**PURPOSE:** To establish clear guidelines for animals in the library.

**Pets:**

Pets are not permitted in the Library or outside on the library patio, or in the children's outside play area.

**Service Animals:**

In accordance with Title III of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) service animals are welcome and permitted in the Library.

The ADA defines a service animal as "any animal 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 animals are working animals, not pets.

In order to help maintain a pleasant, productive and safe environment of all Library users and Library staff, the following guidelines for service animals must be observed:

- Service animals must be in physical proximity with their owner/handler and under the owner/handler's control at all times.
- Service animals may not be left unattended at any time.
- Service animals must be on a leash or harness at all times unless the use of the leash or harness interfered with the animal's effective performance of its designated tasks. If the animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, it must be under the owner/handler's control at all times via voice, signals or other effective measures.
- Service animals must be housebroken and their owner/handler is solely responsible for the care and cleanup of the animal.
- Service animals must not display aggressive or disruptive behavior. (If a service animal's behavior or actions pose an unreasonable or direct threat to the health or safety of others, it may not remain in the Library. If a service animal is excluded from the Library, the individual with the disability is welcomed to stay and will be reasonably accommodated by Library staff.

Users of service animals are not required to provide documentation of a disability.

Service animals are not required to be licensed or certified by a state or local government or training program, or be identified by a special harness or collar.

Staff may ask the following questions:



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- Is this animal, a service animal, required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

## **Emotional Support Animals:**

An emotional support animal (ESA) may be an animal of any species which provides companionship and emotional support for those diagnosed with a psychological disorder. An ESA does not require training to perform a specific task and does not currently qualify as a service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Library is not required to admit emotional support animals. ESA must follow the same guidelines as service animals.

## **Exceptions for Library-Sponsored Programs:**

The Library may offer or sponsor educational programs for the public that include various animals. These animals are permitted in the Library for the duration of the program and must be accompanied by the owner/handler at all times.