

Hastings Public Library

Service Animals in the Library

To ensure safety for Hastings Public Library (the “Library” or “HPL”) staff and patrons, the Board of Trustees has adopted the following policy regarding animals on the Library grounds and inside the library facility.

Guidelines

Animals, except for specially trained service animals (see section below), are not allowed in the building without the prior approval of the Library Director or Assistant Library Director. Animals may not be left unattended on library grounds.

Animals may not be tied to doors, railings, fences, bike racks, trees, shrubs, or other items on library grounds.

Animals used for law enforcement purposes will be allowed on Hastings Public Library property in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws.

Any animal on HPL property must be under control of the owner or handler at all times. Animals must be leashed, harnessed, crated, or carried in a way that maintains control over the animal.

Any animal that displays behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of other will be asked to leave the library. This behavior includes vicious behavior towards humans or other animals, barking, snarling or growling or other aggressive behavior.

Animals that are not housebroken or that urinate or defecate in the library will be asked to leave.

Service Animals

A service animal is considered an accommodation by federal and Michigan laws and is defined by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 as a dog that is specially trained to assist a person with a disability. Examples of how a service animal may assist a person include, but are not limited to, assisting with a vision, hearing, or physical disability, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, or performing other duties.

A service animal must be restrained with a leash or harness unless it cannot perform its function if leashed, harnessed, or tethered. The work performed by the service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability.

Vaccination and license information must be readily available for service animals on a tag or certificate. Without such verification, the handler may be asked to remove the animal from the library.

Michigan Law identifies interfering with a working service animal or to harass or abuse it as a misdemeanor.

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Dogs in training to become a service animal are welcome at the Hastings Public Library as long as the animal is clearly identified (by vest, ID card or some other means). The animal's trainer should identify himself or herself to HPL staff upon entering the Library.

Emotional support animals and therapy animals do not meet the ADA standard of a service animal and are not allowed in the Hastings Public Library. The owner or handler of any animal that is not a service animal will be asked to remove the animal from HPL and its grounds.

Violation of this Policy

Persons found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to a loss of Library privileges as set forth in the Hastings Public Library Code of Conduct.