



Policy 5-1	Animals in the Library	Created: 11/12/2015 Revised: 4/28/2025 Approved: 05/21/2025
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I. PURPOSE

This policy ensures that patrons protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ORS 346.680 to 346.690, regarding service animals for physically impaired persons, are able to use library spaces fully and ensures Jackson County Library Service's compliance with the same. It also establishes rules that define appropriate behavior of service animals in order to prevent injury to patrons and/or property by animals that are visiting Jackson County Library Services (JCLS).

II. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are welcomed and permitted in all JCLS branches. Per ADA, service animals are dogs or miniature horses individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. For details, please see [ADA requirements for service animals](#). No other animals are permitted unless they are featured in library sponsored programs and have been pre-approved by the Library Director.

III. RULES AND REGULATIONS

To ensure JCLS compliance with the ADA and ORS 346.680 to 346.690 regarding service animals for physically impaired persons, and to help maintain a pleasant, productive, and safe environment for all Library users and staff, the following behavioral guidelines for service animals are to be observed:

- Service animals may only be brought into JCLS facilities by the person who requires assistance by the service animal or who are the service animal's trainer.
- Service animals must be in physical proximity with their handler and under handler control at all times. Service animals must attend to their handler at all times.
- Service animals must be on a leash or harness at all times unless the use of a leash or harness interferes with the animal's effective performance of its designated task(s). If an animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, that animal must be under the handler's control via voice, signals, or other effective means at all times.
- Service animals must not display disruptive behavior such as barking or growling and must conform to applicable points in the [Rules of Conduct Policy](#).
- Service animals must be housebroken and their handler is responsible for any upkeep or clean-up of/after the animal.
- Emotional support animals are not covered by the ADA, and therefore are not allowed in the library.

If a service animal's behaviors or actions pose an unreasonable or direct threat to the health or safety of others, or do not conform to library policy, they may not remain in a Library facility. In accordance with ADA guidelines, non-compliance can be grounds for a request to remove a service animal from a Library facility. If the service animal is excluded from a Library facility, the individual with the disability is welcomed to stay and will be reasonably accommodated by Library staff.

Fear of allergies, animals, presumed outcomes, or annoyance on the part of other patrons or employees are not permissible reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals.

Animal Endangerment

Animals may not be left outside the library in a way that may endanger the animal or library patrons (for example, tied up on library property and left alone while the owner enters the library). Library staff cannot be responsible for caring for an animal outside while the owner visits the library. The library reserves the right to contact the police regarding any unattended animals on its premises. The library also reserves the right to suspend patrons who endanger animals.