



ANIMAL POLICY

The presence of animals in the library can pose a risk to the health and safety of library patrons and staff. To prevent damage to library facilities and property and possible injury to library users and staff, animals are not permitted in North Shelby Library or our branch Mt Laurel Library with the following exceptions:

1. Animals that are part of a library sponsored program or exhibit as determined by the Library Director or designee.
2. Service animals in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and accompanying regulations.
 - The ADA defines a service animal “as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability.” (Q1, *Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA*, https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)
 - A service animal must be under the control of its handler. A harness, leash, or other tether should be used unless it would interfere with the work of the service animal. (Q27, *Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA*, https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)
 - The library may request that a service animal be removed from the facility and deny further access to the animal if it is a) out of control b) is not housebroken or c) poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. The staff will be happy to assist the patron without the animal present. (Q23 & Q25, *Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA*, https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)
3. Service animals in training are allowed for training purposes. Under the Alabama Code (Section 21-7-4(c)(1)): The trainer of a service animal, while engaged in the training of the animal, has the same rights and privileges with respect to access to areas of public accommodation and the same liability for damage as is provided for an individual with a disability who is accompanied by a service animal.
(<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CodeOfAlabama/1975/Coatoc.htm>)

Patrons and staff can refer to the full U.S. Department of Justice *Frequently Asked Questions on Service Animals and the ADA* at: https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html



Patrons and staff can refer to the full Code of Alabama concerning the *Right of a person with a disability to be accompanied by service animal; liability for damages; violations* (Title 21, Section 21-7-4) at: <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CodeOfAlabama/1975/Coatoc.htm>