



ANIMAL POLICY

Adopted November 2017; Revised October 10, 2024

To ensure the safety of Wilberg Memorial Public Library (WMPL) staff and patrons, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following policy regarding animals on the library grounds and inside the library facility.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Animals, except for specially trained service animals, are not allowed in the building without the prior approval of the Library Director.
- Animals may not be left unattended on library grounds. Animals may not be tied to bike racks, trees, or other items on library grounds.
- Animals used for law enforcement purposes will be allowed on WMPL property in accordance with all local, state and federal laws.
- Any animal on library property must always be under control of the owner or handler. 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 others may be asked to leave the library.
- Animals that are not housebroken or that urinate or defecate in the library may be asked to leave.
- All animals permitted on library property must be vaccinated and licensed in accordance with state and local laws. Vaccination and license information must be readily available on a tag or certificate.
- The library is not required to provide supplies or equipment or for the care or supervision of an animal on library property.

SERVICE ANIMALS:

- Service animals are allowed in the library.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act requirements identify a service animal as a dog that is specially trained to assist a person with a disability.
- Dogs in training to become a service animal are welcome at the WMPL 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 WMPL staff upon entering the library.



CERTIFIED THERAPY ANIMALS:

- The WMPL recognizes the role certified therapy animals play in library programming.
- Therapy animals are welcome at WMPL as part of library programming.
- Therapy animals must follow all WMPL policies.
- The handler of a therapy animal should be able to provide the WMPL with the animal's certification from a recognized therapy animal organization upon request.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS OR COMFORT ANIMALS:

- Emotional support animals may be permitted on library grounds with previous approval of the Library Director.

ANIMALS FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMMING:

- Animals used for educational purposes are welcome at the library for programming events.
- These animals must follow all the above guidelines.

LIBRARY PETS:

- It is the decision of the WMPL Board of Trustees that the library shall not own a pet for the following reasons:
 - An animal housed in the library may prevent patrons from visiting the library;
 - the care and upkeep of a pet is beyond the duties of the library staff; and
 - the cost of pet maintenance (daily care and medical emergencies) may be beyond the library's budget.

End of Policy