

SERVICE & THERAPY ANIMALS POLICY

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

Rutland Free Library prohibits all animals within the library with the exception of service animals, well-behaved therapy animals, and animals present as part of a library program.

A service animal, under the American with Disabilities Act, is “any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities” and they are welcome in the Library as covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.

Other assistance animals, sometimes called therapy or emotional support animals, are allowed in the Library at the discretion of Library staff and must be on a short leash or other form of restraint and under direct control at all times.

Any assistance or service animal that is disruptive, unattended, or not under the clear control of the owner may be ordered from the property. Examples of disruptive behavior include but are not limited to: Barking, growling, jumping / climbing on property, urinating or defecating inside the building, and initiating contact with staff or other patrons, or their belongings.

Staff are not required to provide care for or supervision of a service animal.

*Retrieved from <https://www.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/> 10/17/24

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