

Policy 3-1-7. Animals in the Library

Adopted 10/16/2025

Josephine Community Library District is committed to providing an open and welcoming environment for everyone. To ensure equal access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Oregon law, trained service animals are permitted in all library locations. This policy explains the difference between service animals and pets, outlines expectations for behavior, and helps maintain a safe and comfortable space for all patrons, volunteers, and staff.

- **Pets not permitted:** Animals that are pets are not allowed inside library buildings.
- **Service animals:** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Oregon law, individuals with disabilities may bring trained service animals into the library. Service animals must remain under the handler's control at all times, on leash or harness unless performing a task that requires otherwise. Service dogs in training are also permitted.
- **Emotional support and therapy animals:** Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA and are not permitted in the library.
- **Behavior expectations:** Service animals must be housebroken and under control of their handler at all times. Animals that are aggressive, disruptive, or not properly supervised may be required to leave the library.
- **Responsibilities of handlers:** Handlers are responsible for the care and supervision of their service animals, including clean-up. Service animals may not be left unattended in the building or on library property.
- **Consideration for all patrons:** Library staff will work to accommodate individuals who may have concerns such as allergies or fear of animals while ensuring equal access for those with service animals.

For additional information, patrons may consult the library's Policy 3-1-2 Patron Responsibilities and Rules of Conduct.