

LIBRARY POLICY

Accessibility Services - Service Animals

The ADA defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. If they meet this definition, animals are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that the individual with a disability cannot perform for him or herself. “Seeing eye dogs” are one type of service animals used by some individual who are blind. This is the type of service animal with which most people are familiar. But there are service animals that assist persons with other kinds of disabilities in their day-to-day activities, including alerting persons with hearing impairments to sounds and pulling wheelchairs or carrying and picking up things for persons with mobility impairments.

A service animal is not a pet.

Service animals must be allowed in all public places.

No special license, harness or vest is required.

A person with a service animal may be asked what accommodation they need when using the Santa Monica Public Library. Library staff may offer some other accommodation. The service animal must be fully controlled at all times. Both the person with the disability and the service animal must adhere to the Library Rules of Conduct.

The City of Santa Monica has policies and procedures in place for how to respond to a request for accommodations from a member of the public. Human Services, the City’s ADA Coordinator, can provide assistance. For questions, complaints, concerns or requests for information about the ADA, please contact Human Services located in City Hall at 1685 Main Street, in Room 212. You may phone Human Services at (310) 458-8701. To reach them by TTY/TDD, call (310) 458-8696.

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