



Service-Animals-Only Policy

The Edgartown Public Library recognizes the need to promote the health, safety, and comfort of all individuals who visit the library, and also the need to preserve the integrity of library facilities and equipment. Animals may pose threats to the patrons, and the facilities; very young or differently abled patrons are at particular risk.

Often even well cared for animals may harbor ticks, fleas, viruses, etc., and there are other considerations such as noise, issues of fear, and potential liability.

Accordingly, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following No-Animal policy to provide a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable library facility for our users.

- Animals are not permitted in the Library building, except for service animals and assistance animals, which are specifically exempted from this Policy, and are not considered pets.
- The Library's No-Animal Policy applies to all spaces in the building, and on the campus.
- Animals may not be left fastened to objects outside the Library while the owner/caretaker is inside the building.

Exempted Animals:

- Service animals, while performing their duties (owners must properly dispose of their service animal's waste).
- On-duty Police or Fire dogs.
- Animals invited for a library program.

Control of animal at all times:

- Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. The animal must be fully housebroken. The owner is always fully responsible for the conduct of their animal.

Library staff is authorized to enforce this policy, and to call for police assistance or contact a parent or guardian when necessary. The Library reserves the right to revoke or restrict Library privileges in cases of violation of the code of conduct.

Adopted 8/17/2016 by the Edgartown Library Board of Trustees