

MISSION STATEMENT

The Algona Public Library will act as a center to provide materials and services to help meet the informational and recreational needs of all patrons.

ANIMALS IN THE LIBRARY

PURPOSE

ARTICLE I.

It is the Policy of the Algona Public Library to prohibit all animals from entering the Library with the exception of assistance or service animals and animals featured in programs sponsored by the Algona Public Library. Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 'public accommodations', including public libraries, requires the Library to allow service animals in to areas of the Library where members of the public are permitted.

ARTICLE II.

DEFINITIONS

Assistance or service animals are defined by state and federal law as animals that have been individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities; assistance or service animals are working animals. The terms service animal and assistance animal will be used interchangeably throughout this document.

ARTICLE III.

ANIMAL OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

The care or supervision of any service animal is solely the responsibility of the owner. The Algona Public Library will not provide care, food, or a special location for the animal. All assistance animals must remain under the responsible person's control, on a leash or harness, within arm's reach of the owner at all times unless the handler is unable to do so because of a disability or if use of leash or harness would interfere with the animal's safe, effective performance of their trained tasks. The Library may ask a service animal to be removed from the building if its behavior is a direct threat to the health or safety or property of other persons.

ARTICLE IV.

LIBRARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Library staff may ask whether an animal is a service or assistance animal required because of a disability and what tasks the animal has been trained to perform. Staff may not ask about the individual's disability. Service animals are not required to be licensed or certified by a state or local government or training program, or be identified by a special harness or collar.