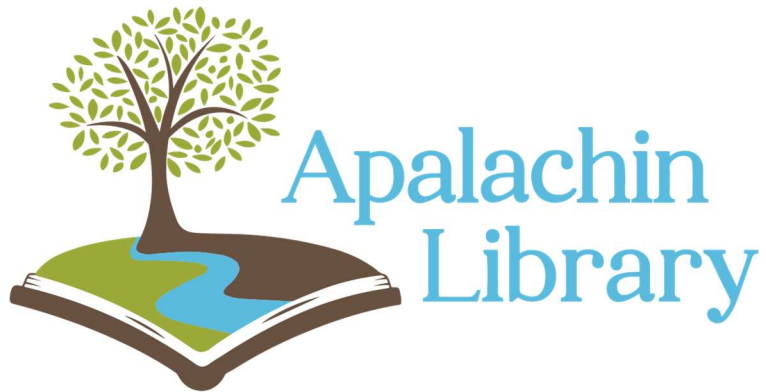




Animals in the Library Policy

**Adopted by the Board November 14, 2020;
revised September 16, 2025**

The Apalachin Library supports a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Library permits service animals in public areas of the Library. Pets and emotional support animals are not permitted, except as approved for Library programs.

Purpose

This policy outlines the conditions under which animals may be permitted in the Library.

Definitions

Service Animal: a dog that has been individually trained to do, work, or perform tasks for an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Service Animal in Training: A dog undergoing training to become a service animal, as permitted under state or local law.

Policy

Service Animals

- Service animals and service animals in training are allowed in all areas of the Library open to the public.
- Service animals must be under the handler's control at all times, either by leash, harness, or other effective means. The handler is responsible for supervision and care of the animal.
- A service animal may be asked to leave the Library if:
 - It is out of control and the handler does not take effective action, or
 - It is not housebroken.

Staff Inquiries

- When it is not obvious that a dog is a service animal, staff may ask only: *Is the dog a service animal?*
- Staff shall not request documentation or ask about the nature of a person's disability.

Other Animals

- Pets – including emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals – are not permitted in the Library.
- Animals may be permitted as part of a Library-sponsored or Library-approved program, with prior approval of the Library Director.

Patron Considerations

- Other patrons' allergies or fear of animals are not valid reasons for denying access to a service animal. Staff will work to reasonably accommodate all parties.