# Guidelines for Animals in the Library

- Pets are not allowed in the library.
- While the library occasionally presents educational programs that feature animals, members of the public may only enter the library with an animal if it is a service animal that requires accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Under the ADA, a service animal is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The dog must be trained to take a specific action to assist the person with a disability, and the task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability.
- Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals which have not been trained to perform a specific job or task do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
- If it is not obvious that a dog brought into the library is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following questions:
  - Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
  - What specific work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
- A staff member attempting to ascertain whether a dog is a service animal will never ask about the nature of a person's disability.
- Service animals must be under the immediate control of their handlers at all times.
- Service animals which are not housebroken, bark excessively, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises.
- Animals may never be left unattended on library grounds.
- Service animals are not allowed on library furniture or fixtures and must remain on the floor or be carried (as appropriate) by their handlers at all times.
- Misrepresenting a dog as a service animal is a violation of the library's Patron Code of Conduct and may result in suspension of library privileges.

Observing the above helps make the library a safe, clean and friendly place for the entire community. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**Resolution: Adopted on May 18, 2022 by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library.**