

Midland Public Library

Policy Type: **Operational**

Policy Number: **OP - 15**

Policy Title: **Animals in the Library**

Initial Policy Approval Date: February 2017

Last Review/Revision Date: January 2019

Year of next review: 2021

The Library must ensure compliance with the Provincial Accessibility Standards for Customer Service regarding the presence of service, assistance or therapy animals in public facilities.

It is the policy of the Midland Public Library to prohibit all animals from entering Library facilities, with the exception of service, therapy or assistance animals, assistance animal trainees, animals featured in programs sponsored by MPL or animals used for the purpose of security of the library. Library staff are entitled to request proof of certification of a service animal or verification of need for such an animal by an appropriate medical professional.

Individuals with disabilities may bring their service animals into all areas of the library where members of the public are normally allowed to go. All service animals must be under the full custody and control of their handler at all times. Also, all service animals must be on a leash or harness at all times unless the handler is unable to leash or harness the animal because of a disability or use of a leash or harness would interfere with the animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. If the service animal cannot be leashed or harnessed, it must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). Owners of the service animals are solely responsible for the supervision and care of the service animal. Therefore, owners must keep the service animal directly with them at all times. Any service animal causing a disturbance or involved in the misuse or destruction of property will be asked to be removed from the premises.

Violators will be asked to leave the Library and/or to remove their animals from the building.