



MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT ANIMAL BEHAVIOR POLICY

Adopted 2/17/2011

Revised 4/14/2016

Revised 5/5/2025

MISSION

The Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD) fosters community by providing resources, encouraging reading, and supporting lifelong learning.

Purpose of the Animal Behavior Policy

The purpose of the Animal Behavior Policy is to provide guidelines for definitions of service animals and acceptable use on MRLD property.

Definitions

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as a dog of any breed and any size that is trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability.

The ADA does recognize miniature horses as service animals under certain conditions. Please consult the ADA website at <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>.

Comfort, companion, emotional support, and therapy animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

Guidelines

The Montrose Regional Library District does not allow animals inside library property, which includes buildings and vehicles, with the exception of service animals, service animal trainees, and animals approved by the Library Director.

A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

Staff may ask for information using two questions:

1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Service animals are not required:

1. To wear vests, tags, or collars denoting their service.
2. To have documentation.
3. To demonstrate tasks or skills.

A business or organization may ask someone to remove their service animal if:

1. The dog is not housebroken.
2. The dog is out of control, and the person cannot get the dog under control.

Non-Compliance

As of November 5, 2024, it is a criminal act in Colorado for an individual, after having been warned verbally or in writing, to intentionally misrepresent an animal as a service animal.

Not complying with these requirements is a violation of library policy and may be cited by library staff and the Montrose Police Department according to CRS 18-13-107.7.

Section 18-13-107.7

Intentional misrepresentation of a service animal for a person with a disability - penalty - definitions(1) A person commits intentional misrepresentation of a service animal if: (a) The person intentionally misrepresents an animal in his or her possession as his or her service animal or service-animal-in-training for the purpose of obtaining any of the rights or privileges set forth in section 24-34-803, C.R.S.;(b) The person was previously given a written or verbal warning regarding the fact that it is illegal to intentionally misrepresent a service animal; and(c) The person knows that the animal in question is not a service animal or service-animal-in-training.