

## **SERVICE ANIMALS POLICY**

### **Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the Middle Country Public Library to permit "service animals" within the Library in accordance with federal and state law and regulations.

### **Objective**

The objective of this policy is to afford those patrons possessing a cognizable disability as defined within Section 292 of the NY Executive Law (subdivision twenty-one) ( below) to present themselves within the Library accompanied by a "service animal" which is to be maintained within the immediate vicinity of the disabled person subject to the following conditions/restrictions: (a) Library personnel may require that the animal be removed from the premises if the animal is out of control or otherwise threatens the health, safety and welfare of staff or patrons and the animal's handler does not take effective immediate measures to control the animal; (b) the animal is not housebroken; (c) the service animal is to be restrained with a harness, leash or tether unless the handler due to his/her disability is unable to effect such restraint or the use of such restraints would interfere with the service animal's safe and effective performance of its work or tasks in which case the service animal must be shown to be otherwise within the control of the handler through such measures as voice control, signals, or other effective means; (d) inquiry may be made of the patron who is accompanied by a service animal as to whether the service animal is required as the result of a recognized disability and what task(s) the animal has been trained to perform (the Library may not require documentation of any nature as to whether the service animal has, in fact, been trained, licensed, etc. to perform as such); and further the Library will not make such inquiries if it is apparent that the service animal is trained to perform the function of assisting an individual who possesses an observable disability (e.g. providing assistance with stability or balance to one who possesses an observable mobility disability; guiding one who is blind or possesses low vision; assisting the movement of a wheelchair).

NY Executive Law, Section 292, Subdivision 21

"21. The term "disability" means (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment."

***Adopted November 15, 2017 by the Board of Trustees of the Middle Country Public Library  
Revised June 22, 2022.***