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The Waco-McLennan County Library allows service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the library where members of the public are typically allowed to go.

**Service animals** are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other duties.

**Service animals** are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

**Service animals** must be under the control of their 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. If the service dog 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 dog are solely responsible for the supervision and care of the service dog. Therefore, owners must keep the service dog directly with them at all times. Staff are not required to provide care for or supervision of a service animal.

A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, staff must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.

**Animal Endangerment** The Library does not condone leaving non-service animals outside the Library in a way that may endanger the animal or Library patrons. The Library reserves the right to contact the police regarding any unattended animals on its premises.

**Exceptions for Library Offerings** Pending approval by the Director or their designee, the Library may have animals in the building as part of its educational and recreational offerings.

**References** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Title II, Section 35.136 (Revised September 15, 2010); Beginning on March 5, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under Titles II and III of the ADA.