**VCL Service Animal Policy**

Under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), libraries must allow service dogs to accompany patrons with disabilities in all places where the public is permitted to go. The dog may be of any breed. Additionally, miniature horses are permitted under the ADA. The dog (or miniature horse) is not required to wear a vest, and the library may not ask for certification of any kind.

Staff may ask only these two questions if necessary to determine whether the animal is a service animal.

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

If a dog is out of control, and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or if the animal is not housebroken, the library may ask the handler to remove the animal from the library. Staff will offer the handler the opportunity to receive goods or services without the animal’s presence.

Emotional support animals do not qualify as service animals.

**Source**: “Must My Library Accommodate Service and Support Animals? Lawyer-librarian answers questions on book displays, video recording, and animals in the library,” by Mary Minow. American Libraries, February 18, 2020.