PURPOSE

The mission of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library is to have a positive impact on our diverse community by providing lifelong learning and literacy resources. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are welcomed and permitted in Thomas Branigan Memorial Library (TBML) and its branches at Munson Senior Center and Sage Café.

TBML recognizes that some patrons with disabilities may have service animals, which are trained to assist or accommodate a person with sensory, mental, or physical disabilities or to perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled individual. TBML recognizes legal rights under federal and state laws regarding use of service animals. TBML also considers the safety and health of all its patrons, the public and library staff to be of utmost priority. Refer to www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm.

POLICY

Animals, other than service animals assisting persons with disabilities, are not permitted inside Library facilities. Owners of pets will be asked to remove them from the library.

Service Animals Must Be Under Control

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

PROCEDURES

1. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the animal a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the animal been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

2. Exceptions are made for the use of animals supervised by a program presenter who is participating in a library program or a library activity sponsored by the library and supervised by library staff. Acceptable example: a zoo handler who brings zoo animals to the library for a sponsored program; staff holding turtle races as part of a summer reading program; a small aquarium, guinea pigs or other small animals, housed in the children's department. Patrons should always check with the Library Administrator before bringing any kind of animal or insect into the library building(s).

UPDATES		
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PEER REVIEW	
Title: Library Administrator Renee Payne Frankel	Title: Library Manager Catherine Christmann
Title: Library Manager Bonnie Hobbs	Title: Library Supervisor Elise Vidal
Title: Librarian Lori Batchelor	Title: Librarian Stephanie Midwood
Title: Library Assistant Senior Carlos Gonzalez	Title: Library Assistant Denise Espinoza
Title: Library Advisory Board, President Ellen Young	Title: Library Advisory Board, Vice President Debora Rindge
Title: Library Advisory Board, Secretary Susan Pinkerton	Title: Library Advisory Board, Friends Liaison Susan Fletcher
Title: Library Advisory Board, Member Paula Sharon	Title: Library Advisory Board, Member Jose Aranda
Title: Library Advisory Board, Member Sue Patterson	