

Organizational and content revisions to the **Animals in the Library Policy**:

Organizational Improvements:

1. **Clarified Policy Scope in Introduction:**
 - The introduction more clearly states that the policy applies to all BCLD library locations and specifies that it is designed to align with federal and state regulations.
 2. **Reorganized Content for Readability:**
 - Breakdown into **clearly numbered or titled sections**, such as:
 - **Purpose** (Why the policy exists)
 - **Service Animals** (Rights, responsibilities, and legal considerations)
 - **Non-Service Animals & Pets** (Rules for other animals, including program participation)
 - **Staff Guidelines & Enforcement** (How staff should handle situations)
 3. **Consolidated Definitions Subsection:**
 - The definitions previously appeared in two places (under "Statement of Policy" and "Definitions"). Consolidated them into one subsection clearly labeled **Definitions & Rights** under the Service Animals section.
 4. **Highlight Key Rules Using Bullets or Numbering:**
 - Instead of long paragraphs, used **bullet points** or **numbered lists** for readability.
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Content Revisions:

1. **Aligned Service Animal Definition with ADA Standards:**
 - The definition of "Service Animal" is updated to align exactly with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, which defines service animals strictly as **dogs and, in some cases, miniature horses** trained to perform tasks for a person with a disability.
 - The current definition is outdated and too broad ("any animal that is trained...") and could lead to misunderstandings.
2. **Added Permissions for Assistance Animal Trainers to align with Oregon law**
 - In compliance with state law, ORS 659A.143 - Assistance Animal Trainers and their service animals in training are specified as being treated the same as persons with a disability and their service dogs.
3. **Staff Guidance for Questioning Patrons with Animals:**
 - The section on **what staff can ask** is formatted more as a **clear directive**, making it explicit that staff may ask **only two questions** under ADA rules:
 1. **Is this a trained service animal required because of a disability?**
 2. **What task(s) has the animal been trained to perform?**
 - Added several examples of tasks a dog has been trained to perform directly related to a person's disability to help staff assess when question #2 has been answered correctly. Most responses will fall under general task types of guiding, alerting, assisting, and interrupting.
4. **Clarified Definition and Requirement for Non-Service Animals**

- Definition expanded to include “companionship, therapy, comfort, or emotional support” animals. Specification that these do not enjoy ADA protection is retained.
 - Added “fully enclosed in a carrier or carried by the handler at all times and are not placed directly on library furniture or floors.”
5. **Specified Library-Sponsored Animal Programs:**
- If the library allows animals for educational programs (e.g., reading therapy dogs), the policy acknowledges this and clarifies that such programs must be pre-approved by the library.
6. **Specified application of Library Use Restrictions policy**
- Allows for exclusion penalties for **recurrent violations**
7. **Clarified Handling of Causes for Removal:**
- The new policy provides **clearer guidelines** on what constitutes a cause for removal and the steps staff should take if a service animal is causing a disturbance. Including
 1. **Direct threats to the health and safety of other people or animals** in the library, **or district property** (e.g., excessive barking, aggressive behavior, property damage)
 1. **Signs of poor health** such as retching, vomiting, excessive scratching, drooling, fluid discharge are included here to be considered a threat to the health of other persons and animals.
 2. **Not housebroken**
 3. **Lack of effective control**