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# City of Swan Libraries Animals in Libraries Guideline

## Purposes / Objectives

The purpose of this Guideline is to state the City's terms and conditions for public access rights for assistance dogs.

## Overview

An assistance dog is a working animal that has undergone special training to give people with disability support in their daily life. It is not a pet.

The term assistance dog covers, but is not limited to, guide dogs, medical alert animals, hearing assistance animals, mobility assistance animals, psychiatric assistance animals and assistance animals for developmental disorders.

People with assistance dogs that are trained by accredited organisations are automatically granted public access rights under the *Dog Act 1976*, including entry to any building or place open to or used by the public for any purpose, or travel on public transport. The accredited organisations are:

- Assistance Dogs Australia
- Guide Dogs WA
- Lions Hearing Dogs
- Seeing Eye Dogs Australia
- Royal Guide Dogs Association of Australia

An assistance dog from an accredited organisation listed above will have a branded jacket or harness from the organisation that qualified it. While the branded jacket or harness should be sufficient to identify the animal as an assistance dog, City staff are legally allowed to ask for the official card issued by an accredited organisation showing that the assistance dog is qualified, accredited, and serving the person they are with.

People may also apply to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for public access rights for a dog not trained by an accredited organisation. Following approval, applicants are provided with an identification card.

## Attending City of Swan Libraries with an Assistance Dog

When attending a City of Swan Library, including external library venues and outdoor areas, the following conditions apply:

- The cardholder must carry their assistance dog authorisation card with them at all times when in a public place accompanied by an assistance dog and the card must be produced if requested by City staff.
- The cardholder must understand that library spaces could be crowded and noisy for a dog, and the assistance dog must be able to cope with these movements and noise.
- The cardholder will be responsible for any injury, loss or damage however caused, or contributed to, by the assistance dog at any building or place.
- The cardholder must ensure that the dog remains on a leash whenever required by law.

- Approved assistance dogs, when in a public building or place must not:
  - cause distress or inconvenience to other people by its actions or behaviour
  - cause any risk to the health, safety and welfare of any person
  - lunge at or bite any person or animal
  - disrupt the operations of services
  - sit on seats or restrict access to services provided
  - block doorways or aisles
  - toilet on seats, service areas or in premises.

There are other types of dogs that assist people with disability, but they do not get the same access rights as an assistance dog. They include:

- emotional support animal
- visitation animal
- therapy animal
- facility animal
- companion animal

These animals will be refused entry to City of Swan Libraries.

No other animals will be allowed in City of Swan Libraries, unless part of a planned library program or event and prior approval has been given by the Library Manager.

## Document control

### Document approvals:

Version #	Adoption
1.	27/4/2016
2.	5/7/2021
3.	6/12/2024
4.	28/11/2024

### Document responsibilities

<b>Custodian:</b>	<b>Custodian Unit:</b>	Library Services
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### Document management:

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### Compliance requirements:

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**Industry:**

**Organisational:**

**Strategic Community Plan:**