



## **ANIMAL POLICY**

*Adopted November 2017*

In order to ensure the safety of Osceola Public Library staff and patrons, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following policy regarding animals on the library grounds and inside the library facility.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

- Animals, except for specially trained service animals, are not allowed in the building without the prior approval of the Library Director.
- Animals may not be left unattended on library grounds. Animals may not be tied to bike racks, trees, or other items on library grounds.
- Animals used for law enforcement purposes will be allowed on Osceola Public Library property in accordance with all local, state and federal laws.
- Any animal on Library property must be under control of the owner or handler at all times. Animals must be leashed, harnessed, crated or carried in a way that maintains control over the animal.
- Any animal that displays behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others may be asked to leave the library.
- Animals that are not housebroken or that urinate or defecate in the library may be asked to leave.
- All animals permitted on library property must be vaccinated and licensed in accordance with state and local laws. Vaccination and license information must be readily available on a tag or certificate.
- The library is not required to provide supplies or equipment or for the care or supervision of an animal on Library property.

### **SERVICE ANIMALS:**

- Service animals are allowed in the library.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act requirements identifies a service animal as a dog that is specially trained to assist a person with a disability.
- Dogs in training to become a service animal are welcome at the Osceola Public Library as long as the animal is clearly identified (by vest, ID card or some other means). The animal's trainer should identify himself or herself to OPL staff upon entering the Library

### **CERTIFIED THERAPY ANIMALS:**

- The Osceola Public Library recognizes the role certified therapy animals play in library programming.
- Therapy animals are welcome at OPL as part of Library programming.
- Therapy animals must follow all OPL policies.

- The handler of a therapy animal should be able to provide the OPL with the animal's certification from a recognized Therapy Animal Organization upon request.

**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS OR COMFORT ANIMALS:**

- Emotional support animals may be permitted on library grounds with previous approval of the Library Director.

**LIBRARY PETS:**

- The Osceola Public Library recognizes the learning opportunities animals can provide to community children and families and therefore owns a pet Ball Python.
- Library staff will strictly follow instructions provided by local veterinarian regarding the care and handling of the snake and will meet with the veterinarian on an annual basis to assess the snake's health and role at the OPL.
- The Library Board recognizes the associated costs and responsibilities and will plan accordingly.
- The Library Director will appoint a primary caretaker to make decisions regarding the snake's health and well-being.

*End of Policy*