**ADA & Animals in the Library**

There is often confusion about the differences between service animals and companion, assistance or emotional support animals in the library. This information sheet is designed to help clarify those differences and clarify the federal, state and local laws as they pertain to the Pueblo City County Library District policies regarding ADA animal accommodations in the library.

**Service Animals** – Service animals are allowed in the library. A service animal is defined by federal and Colorado law as a dog (or miniature horse) that has been individually trained to perform a specific task or service for a person with a disability. A service animal is considered an extension of a person with a disability and is allowed in any place that is open to the public.

Owners of service animals are *NOT required* to:

* have the service animal certified
* present “proof” that the animal is a service animal
* make the service animal demonstrate a service task
* wear a vest or other identifier

Owners of service animals *are required* to:

* keep the service animal under control at all times
* remove the animal from the library if it becomes threatening or is a nuisance (the customer may return without the animal)

Service animals “in-training” are NOT regarded as a service animals

If a customer complains about a service animal’s presence in the library (i.e. allergies) the customer making the complaint should move to another location in the library or come back to the library at a later time.

**Companion or Assistance Animal** – Companion and assistance animals are NOT permitted in the library. Business owners and other places of public accommodation are not required by law to allow companion, assistance or emotional support animals. Assistance and companion animals are protected under the Fair Housing Act and Colorado state law as animals that help a person with a disability alleviate one or more symptoms of their disability. Emotional support animals fall within this classification of animals as a subset of companion animals. Companion or assistance animals may be many different types of animals, and are not limited to just one animal. Landlords cannot charge pet fees for animals that are assistance or companion animals because they are not considered “pets” under the law.

If a person brings an assistance or companion animal into the library, the animal owner will be asked to remove the animal (the customer may return without the animal).

**Concerns?** If you wish to discuss concerns regarding service animals or companion/assistance animals you can make an appointment with Janina Goodwin (719) 562- 5621 or Sara Rose (719-562-5627.