

# DOGS ON PATIOS

## What You Need to Know

Food service establishments may allow customers to be accompanied by dogs in an outdoor dining area in some cases. The retail food service establishment shall comply with all the requirements set forth in section 8-106 (D) of the Rules and Regulations Governing Food Establishments if they allow dogs.

Regardless of whether a retail food establishment requires its customers to comply with these conditions, it remains responsible for compliance with them.

### Eligible Outdoor Dining Areas

An eligible outdoor dining area is an area of a retail food service establishment that:

- Complies with and has all required approvals and permits for outdoor eating areas under the Denver Zoning Code.
- Contains an outdoor dining area with direct and unobstructed access from the right-of-way or other outside area, which if enclosed by a fence, railing, planters, or other similar object, must have an opening, such as a gate, to the right-of-way or other outside area, and that is unroofed and not enclosed by a screen or other similar enclosure

### Patios Smaller than 400 Square Feet

- Food and drink service by employees including taking orders or delivering food to tables, is prohibited.

### Patios Larger than 400 Square Feet

- Full service (taking orders at a table) may be provided to the entire patio as long as half of the patio, at minimum, is designated as not allowing dogs.
- The part of the patio allowing dogs must have a separate entry gate that does not go through the inside of the dining establishment.



## Requirements to Allow Dogs on Your Patio

*As specifically outlined in the Denver Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations, Section 8-106*

- The retail food establishment shall have signs posted stating if dogs are or are not allowed in the outdoor dining area. One sign shall be posted in a conspicuous location visible upon entrance to the interior of the retail food establishment, and another sign shall be posted in a conspicuous location visible upon entrance to the outdoor dining area.
- Patios which are 400 square feet or larger and allow dogs must also provide clear signage indicating which portion of the patio is dog-friendly and which is reserved for dining without dogs.
- The retail food establishment shall not permit preset food or tableware in the outside dining area.
- Dogs must be kept at least fifteen (15) feet from any outdoor food or drink handling areas and service station areas at all times.
- The retail food establishment's chairs and tables located in the outdoor eating area shall be easily cleanable.
- Sanitizer, equipment, and cleaning supplies shall be provided in the outdoor dining area for use in that area only and shall not be comingled with sanitizers, Equipment, or cleaning supplies for use inside the establishment.
- The retail food establishment shall provide supplies in the outdoor dining area for the cleanup and removal of dog waste.
- All dog waste shall be cleaned up immediately and the affected area shall be sanitized with a disinfectant.
- The retail food establishment shall provide a refuse container stored outside for all waste generated from the outside dining area. The refuse container shall be easily cleanable, shall be insect and rodent-proof, shall be provided with tight-fitting lids, doors, or covers, and shall be kept covered when not in actual use.
- While on duty, employees shall not touch, pet, or otherwise care for or handle any dogs in an outdoor dining area.
- All chairs and table surfaces shall be cleaned and sanitized with an appropriate product after use by any customer accompanied by a dog, using a separate sanitizing solution, specifically designated for cleaning of tables/chairs.
- Spilled food and drink shall be removed from the floor or ground between seating of all customers.
- All dogs are prohibited from entering the interior of the retail food establishment and customers accompanied by dogs may only access the outdoor dining area directly from the right-of-way or other outdoor area.
- All dogs in the outdoor dining area must have current vaccination tags affixed to their collars.
- All dogs must be on a leash, cord, or chain and held in a manner that complies with Section 8-106 of the D.R.M.C. Customers accompanied by dogs shall also keep their dog under control at all times.
- Dogs are not allowed on a seat, chair, table, countertop, or any other furnishings within the outdoor dining area.

## Operator's Checklist for Allowing Dogs on Patios

Ensure you can check off ALL the following items before allowing dogs on your patio

If less than 400 square feet:

- No table service permitted by employees
- Signs must be posted to state dogs are allowed on patios

If greater than 400 square feet:

- Full table service is allowed by employees and at minimum, half of the patio does not allow dogs
- Signs must be posted to designate the section allowing dogs

All patios:

- Direct access to patio via gate, sidewalk, or opening; not through inside of restaurant
- Unroofed, not enclosed by a screen
- No pre-set tableware/glassware
- 15 ft away from food/drink/service stations
- Chairs easily cleanable; chairs/tables must be cleaned and sanitized
- Separate sanitizing solutions/cleaning supplies for outdoor patio only
- Dogs cannot sit on tables, chairs, or furnishings
- Supply tools for clean-up/removal of dog waste (i.e., doggie bags, shovel, gloves)
- Provide a garbage receptacle for waste
- Vaccination tags visible; dogs leashed
- Remind staff to wash hands anytime they return to the kitchen or food handling areas after being in spaces that allow dogs when dogs are present
- Employees shall not make contact with dogs at any time.