

Keeping Your Restaurant Compliant

ADA | Dogs on Patios in Denver & Outside of Denver

Dogs on Patios in Denver

In the City and County of Denver, dogs are allowed on restaurant patios if the restaurant owner allows it.

In order for Denver restaurants to allow dogs on their patios, the restaurant must adhere to the following:

- Must have a patio that has direct access to enter the patio without going through the restaurant
- If the patio is less than 400 square feet in size, there cannot be table service for food or drink in the patio/outdoor dining area
- If the patio is larger than 400 square feet in size, at least half of the patio must be designated as a “dog-free zone” and prohibit dogs in that section. The other section of the patio allowing dogs must have direct access to the sidewalk or other outside area.
- Patios larger than 400 square feet in size that allow dogs must provide clear signage indicating the area where dogs are allowed.



Dogs on Patios in Colorado (outside of Denver)

In 2019, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued a statewide variance request criteria to allow dogs that are not service animals in an outdoor patio area. If a restaurant follows the below criteria, then they can allow dogs on outdoor patios:

1. First, you must request approval for allowing dogs on your patio and it must be granted by the local regulatory authority.
2. The dog-friendly area must be maintained - clean and free of animal waste.
3. Dog waste clean-up bags must be available to customers at all times when the outdoor seating area is open for use.
4. Receptacles for the disposal of animal waste must be available when the outdoor seating area is open. The receptacles must be emptied at least daily and must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
5. The dog-friendly outdoor seating area must be accessible from the outdoors. Non-service dogs are not allowed inside the restaurant.
6. Staff are not allowed to pet, hold, or feed dogs.
 - a. Employees that have incidental contact with dogs or dog bowls must wash their hands.
7. If provided, dog water bowls must be filled, cleaned, and stored in a manner that prevents contamination of food, food equipment, and single-service articles.
8. The following requirements must be communicated to customer using signs, printed brochures, advisories, or other effective written means:
 - a. Your dog must be well-behaved and on a leash at all times.
 - b. Keep your dog close to you, but not on tables or chairs.
 - c. Do not let your dog eat or drink out of the restaurant's glassware or dishware.
 - d. Clean up after your dog with the provided cleaning supplies.

Other useful links:

- [ADA home page](#)
- [ADA FAQs](#)
- [What is the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)?](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor - ADA](#)

