

Dogs In Food Service Establishments

[Chapter 246-215-06570 Washington Administrative Code](#)

Dogs may be permitted in food service establishments, only under the specific circumstances described in this handout. This information only pertains to pet dogs, not service animals.

Outdoor Areas

Dogs may be allowed in an **outdoor** area on the premises **if all the following conditions are satisfied:**

- The permit holder has a Health District-approved plan prior to allowing dogs in its outdoor premises. The approved plan must address the following points:
 - Dogs are on a leash and under the control of the dog owner or confined in a pet carrier.
 - Dogs do not go through the food establishment to reach the outdoor area.
 - Dogs are not allowed on tables, chairs, benches, seats, or other fixtures in the food establishment.
 - The outdoor area is not used for food or drink preparation or utensil storage.
 - If the food establishment provides food and water containers for dogs, employees shall not wash containers in the food establishment.
 - Food employees do not have direct contact with dogs.
 - The outdoor area is maintained clean of animal waste.
 - The permit holder ensures compliance with local ordinances related to sidewalks, public nuisance, and sanitation.

Indoor Areas

Dogs, under the control of the dog owner, may be allowed in an **indoor** area on the premises **if all the following conditions are satisfied:**

- The permit holder has notified the Health District in advance in writing that they intend to allow pet dogs inside of the establishment. A plan of operation is not required to be submitted but is recommended.
- The food establishment has very limited food service, such as a tavern or tap room and the business does not prepare food. Only non-time/temperature control for safety foods such as ready-to-eat foods (soda pop, pretzels, cookies, doughnuts, cake, or meat jerky) served from the original package without direct hand contact directly onto or into a container are allowed.
- Dogs are not allowed on tables, chairs, benches, seats, or other fixtures in the food establishment.
- If the food establishment provides food and water containers for dogs, employees shall not wash containers in the food establishment.
- Food employees do not have direct contact with dogs.
- The premises is maintained clean of animal waste.
- The permit holder ensures compliance with local ordinances related to sidewalks, public nuisance, and sanitation.
- The permit holder provides signage to notify customers that the facility allows dogs in its indoor premises.



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