

Pet Dogs in Outdoor Seating Areas

Under an approved plan, dogs may be allowed in outdoor seating areas. The plan is important for preventing contamination by keeping dogs away from food and food-prep areas. ALL conditions of the plan must be met to safely allow dogs onto the premises:



Notifications

A plan must be submitted to the health department for approval. Signage should be posted, notifying consumers that pet dogs are allowed.



No seat at the table

All dogs must be kept under control by their owners. This means on a leash or in a pet carrier. Dogs are not allowed on chairs, tables or benches.



Look, but don't touch

It can be difficult to resist the urge, but employees may not pet, hug, or have any direct contact with the dogs while they are working. Thinking of providing bowls for water or treats? Be aware that dog dishes may NOT be washed on-site.



Clean up

Accidents happen. The important thing is making sure they are cleaned up quickly. Keep the area clear of any animal waste. An animal waste clean up plan must be included as part of your plan.



No outdoor food preparation

Food and drinks may not be prepared in outdoor areas that allow dogs. Do not store utensils in this area, either. Be sure an outer entrance is available. Dogs may NOT pass through the establishment to reach the outdoor area.



Dogs inside

Dogs may only be allowed inside establishments that do not prepare food or mix drinks. Whatcom County Health Department must be notified in advance prior to allowing dogs inside.

Note: This does not apply to service dogs

Please contact the Food Safety Team at the Whatcom County Health Department with any questions:

HL_FoodSafetyProgram@co.whatcom.wa.us

360-778-6000 M-F 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.



Whatcom County
HEALTH
Department