

Dogs in Outdoor Dining Spaces



If an operator wishes, pet dogs are now permitted in outdoor dining spaces of food premises in Prince Edward Island if the food safety requirements listed below are met.

Whether or not pet dogs are permitted in an outdoor dining space, service dogs are permitted to accompany their owners in all areas of a food premises which are open to the public.

Food Safety Requirements

The following food safety requirements must be met if pet dogs are to be allowed in an outdoor dining space:

- Direct street access to the outdoor dining space is required.
- This allowance applies to pet dogs only; other pets are not permitted in outdoor dining spaces.
- Dogs who are ill must not enter an outdoor dining space.
- If Environmental Health considers the outdoor dining space to be an enclosed room (e.g. floor to ceiling walls, etc.) pet dogs are not permitted.
- If an operator permits dogs in an outdoor dining space, a sign must be posted at all entrances to the outdoor dining space to clearly indicate it is dog friendly.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash or in a pet carrier and they must always remain under the control of and within arm's length of an adult owner.
- Dog owners should be asked to remove any misbehaving, aggressive, or threatening dog from the premises.
- Dogs are not permitted on any seat, chair, patron's lap, table, countertop, or similar surface in the outdoor dining space and must remain out of the aisles. Please note, there may be some allowance for service animals to provide appropriate service to their owners.
- Dogs must not contact reusable food service dishes or utensils.
- Dogs must not be given any food or treats while in the outdoor dining space.
- It is the responsibility of the dog owner to provide a water dish. The water dish must be filled in a manner to prevent cross contamination. Employees must not handle the water dish, however; they can fill the dish with a designated water jug.
- Employees must not touch, pet or otherwise handle a dog while on duty.
- If the dog has a urine or fecal incident, the owner must clean it up immediately. Employees must then disinfect the surface and wash their hands immediately.
- Tables and chairs must be cleaned and sanitized between each table seating.
- Spilled food or drinks must be cleaned up after they occur.

Make Sure There is Enough Shade

It is important to ensure dogs are safe. There should be enough shade to shelter dogs while in an outdoor dining space.

Dog Scratches or Bites

Any dog scratches or bites must be reported to Environmental Health. The food premises operator should collect the dog owner's name and contact information. Clean the affected area immediately with soap and water and seek medical attention.

For more information please contact Environmental Health:

(902) 368-4970 or (Toll Free) 1-800-958-6400

envhealth@ihis.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I required to allow pet dogs in my outdoor dining space?

No. Each food premises operator can decide if they want to allow pet dogs in their outdoor dining space.

Can an outdoor dining space be enclosed?

No. An outdoor dining space cannot be fully enclosed with floor to wall ceilings if dogs are permitted in the space.

How will the public know if my food premises is dog friendly?

Food premises operators must post signage at all entrances to the outdoor dining space which clearly indicates the outdoor dining area is dog friendly.

Do I have to use the sign provided by Environmental Health?

No. Food premises operators may choose to post their own sign at all entrances to the outdoor dining space. The sign posted must contain the required information and must be easily visible and legible.

What about service dogs?

Service dogs are permitted to accompany their owners in all areas of the food premises which are open to the public.

Can dogs briefly enter the inside portion of my food premises, just to access the outdoor dining space?

No. Dogs may not enter outdoor dining spaces by going through the inside of the food premises or anywhere else food is stored or prepared.

Can employees handle dogs?

Employees must not touch, pet or otherwise handle a dog while on duty.

What are the risks associated with dogs in a food premises?

- 1) Allergic reactions due to an accumulation of dog hair, dander or debris in the environment.
- 2) Physical injuries related to dog bites and scratches.
- 3) Contamination of food by direct or indirect contact with dog saliva, feces, urine, or other bodily fluids.
- 4) Possible exposure to parasites like fleas and ticks.
- 5) Pet dogs can distract or interfere with a working service animal.

Can food preparation be done in outside patios?

Food preparation is not permitted in an outdoor seating area if pet dogs are permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, open barbeques, mixing drinks, etc.

A beverage glass may be filled from a pitcher or other container that has been filled or otherwise prepared inside the food premises.

Food preparation is permitted if it occurs in an enclosed structure, without public access (e.g. food trailer).

Can employees provide water to a dog while on the outside patio?

The pet owner is responsible for providing a water dish. Employees may fill up bowls with water in a manner that does not contaminate human food or dishware.