

Pets on Patios



Per Colorado Food Code §8-106, pets are not permitted in retail food establishments (including outdoor patios). This prohibition does not include service animals, which are always allowed. For more detailed information about service animals, please see the Service Animal Guidance at www.sjbpublichealth.org.

Pets may be allowed on outdoor patios under certain circumstances, which requires a Variance issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Any retail food establishment may request a Variance from any requirement of the Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations when the establishment believes that the requirement results in an undue economic hardship or when it is believed that a standard may not apply to the specific situation. Information on the Variance procedure can be found in Section 11-6, page 106 (link at www.sjbpublichealth.org/food-safety).

Before requesting a Variance, the establishment should create a plan and policies/procedures that address the following (at a minimum):

- ✿ Where dogs are prohibited and allowed, including how patrons access dog allowable areas
- ✿ Patron (dog owner) rules/expectations (e.g. clean up after their pet, supervision, leashes, vaccinations, where they are/are not allowed)
- ✿ Staff Training
- ✿ Staff maintenance of grounds
- ✿ Staff cleanup procedure/sanitation
- ✿ RFE food preparation and storage
- ✿ Cleaning of dog bowls
- ✿ Injuries and incidents
- ✿ Other relevant information

For more information on submitting a Variance request, please see the Variance Guidance document available at www.sjbpublichealth.org/food-safety.

SAN JUAN BASIN
public health

sjbpublichealth.org

Durango Office
281 Sawyer Drive
Durango, CO 81303
970 247 5702

Pagosa Springs Office
502 S 8th Street
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970 264 2409

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are
you?