



TAKING YOUR DOG TO PATIOS & FOOD-SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

It is up to each owner to decide whether their establishment will or will not be dog friendly (service dogs excepted of course) even where a dog's presence is allowed by law. Even if they do accept dogs, some dog friendly businesses may have a limit on how many dogs they allow in at one time or even have an area which is designated for dogs only. These rules could be in place for a number of reasons (such as avoiding wait staff tripping over dogs), so please abide by the establishment's rules.

Good Manners Should Not Be Optional - It is always advisable to ensure your dog (whatever size!) has good basic obedience skills and is [correctly socialized as a puppy](#). You can find trainers committed to humane principles at: <https://rebrand.ly/find-a-trainer>. We recommend working with a local trainer to get a Canine Good Neighbour certificate from the Canadian Kennel Club for your pup - <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Raising-My-Dog/Responsible-Ownership/Canine-Good-Neighbour-Program>.

Good Dog Etiquette for Patios and Food Service Establishments

- **Try and take your dog for a walk and give them a chance to toilet** before entering dog-friendly premises. It can help them burn off energy and settle them if they may be sitting for sometime when you're having a drink or bite to eat.
- **Clean up after your dog.** Sometimes accidents do happen so please be respectful, clean up your mess immediately and always inform business owners so they can mop or disinfect if they choose.
- **Keep your dog on a lead at all times.** Don't let your dog wander.
- **Keep your dog near you, not underfoot!** Don't let them hang out where they can get under staff/customer's feet.
- **Avoid leaving your dog unattended!** If you need to use the bathroom or pay a bill in an area your dog can't go, ask your companion to take responsibility for your dog's behaviour. If you are on your own, you can ask politely if a customer or member of staff mind watching your dog for a couple of minutes. Just don't get offended if you hear a "no" – people don't need to explain why they don't have the energy, are afraid, or are too busy (or tired)!
- **Skip it with wet or muddy pups!** If your dog is soaking wet or very muddy after a run in the park, it's respectful to dry them off and remove wet mud -- or simply take them home.
- **Not at the table or food preparation counters!** Don't let your dog jump up on tables or eat food from your plate. Some businesses don't like it if your dog sits on your lap but it's up to the individual business if they allow this.
- **Don't let your dog just wander up to other dogs.** It's respectful to ask the other dog owners if it's ok for your dog to say hello as some dogs like their own personal space. [Only about 10% of dogs like every single dog they meet – many more tend to prefer a few close friends, some may be "just tolerant" or actively anti-social \(and others may be old or sick\).](#)
- **Pass on barking!** All dogs let out a woof now and again, but if your dog won't stop barking or is growling, it's respectful to leave and return another time when they are more settled.
- **Respect your dog!** Not all dogs like being where it's busy with lots of people and other dogs. As much as us humans enjoy having the company of our dogs please be aware if they are not enjoying themselves as it may be best to return at a time when it's quieter. How can you tell? [See this picture for dog fear and discomfort signals.](#)
- **Avoid dog-dog stares and greetings!** If there is another dog already in the area then sometimes it's best to sit at the opposite end. Also, placing your dog facing away from the other dog can reduce confrontational behaviour.
- **Take your own water and container!** Dog friendly establishments MAY offer a bowl of water and biscuits to your dog but if you are going to be away from home for a long time it's a good idea to take your own water bowl and food just in case they get hungry or thirsty. It's also better for the dog as drinking from the same bowl as other dogs can spread illnesses (that's why people don't share dirty coffee mugs!).
- **Share the fun but not the germs!** Enjoy your experience and make sure to take lots of pics of the friendly establishment and your dog to send to your (and their) Facebook page or website. Just make sure to wash your hands after petting a dog before you handle food.

(Dog etiquette tips in collaboration with Dog Friendly Perthshire, Scotland – <https://www.dogfriendlyperthshire.co.uk/>
For more information or to suggestion changes/additions contact communications@cappdt.ca – updated to Nov. 2019)