



Best Practices for a Pet Friendly Retail Space

The following are best practices and guidelines for retail space owners that are considering implementing pet friendly policies in their business.

As responsible pet and retail shop owners, mindfulness is extremely important. Most retail shops do not have a pet policy set in place however, the basics are important.

A. Before Getting Started:

- Leased properties may have policies already in place regarding pets in the building. If you own the building in which your store is located, there will be more flexibility, otherwise contact the leasing agent or building owner regarding these policies.
- Familiarize yourself with surrounding retail spaces that allow pets in their stores. Seek out management and request for advice and tips on the transition.
- Be sure to fill out our "Include Your Business" form found on our site. This will allow both visitors and residents of the state to find your place in our "Locations" page. After we review your inquiry we will ship you a window decal to showcase your new pet friendly business.

B. Recommendations:

- If food is present in your store (such as a candy area) pets are not allowed in that area
- Determine which kinds of pets you will allow in your store. Some stores do not allow reptiles or exotic pets, only common household pets, such as cats and dogs.
- Signage is important. Be sure to post guidelines (such as the ones found below) displaying the policy on pet friendly alongside your new Pet Friendly Tennessee decal sticker.
- It is important that all pets be well contained in the retail space in the event of an emergency.
- Have cleaning supplies available for accidents that occur in your retail space.

C. Suggested Pet Friendly Retail Space Guidelines:

- All dogs must be on a non-retractable leash no longer than six inches
- Dogs must display on collars a current license tag along with current rabies vaccination (or owner must have information available). Visible collars and identifiable tags should be worn at all times.
- Owners are responsible for looking after their pet and picking up all waste immediately after occurring

Sources:

1. [Main Street Hub: How Your Small Business Can Get Pet-Friendly](#)
2. [Knox News: Knoxville is No. 1 on Apartment Guide's 10 Best Cities in America for Pet Lovers](#)
3. [Cesar's Way: A Short Guide to Shopping with Your Dog](#)
4. [Visit Franklin: Pet Friendly Places You Need to Know In #FranklinTN!](#)
5. [Pet Friendly Places in Gatlinburg](#)