

Pet Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

There is an interest by some restaurant owners and members of the community to allow pet dogs in outdoor dining or patio areas, therefore, Environmental Health (EH) meticulously reviewed and assessed the risk factors involved in this practice. EH has determined that food facility owners and operators may allow pet dogs in the outdoor dining or patio area at their **discretion**. Please note that this only applies to pet dogs; other animals such as cats, birds, or reptiles are not permitted. Service animals or dogs under the control of a uniformed law enforcement officer or uniformed employees of private patrol operations are exempt from these requirements. (California Civil Service Code, Section 54.1, 54.25)

The Following Requirements Must be Met in Order to Allow Pet Dogs in the Outdoor Dining or Patio Area of a Food Facility:

- A separate entrance is used for pets, so they do not enter through the food establishment to reach the outdoor dining or patio area.
- No food preparation shall be allowed in the outdoor dining or patio area, including mixing of drinks.
- Multi-use or reusable utensils, such as plates, silverware, glasses, and bowls, shall not be stored, displayed, or pre-set in the out-door dining area.
- Food and water served and/or provided to pet dogs shall only be in single-use, disposable containers.
- Employees shall be prohibited from having direct contact with pets while on duty.
- Pets shall not be allowed on chairs, seats, benches, and/or tables.
- The outdoor dining or patio area shall be kept clean.
- In cases where excrement or other bodily fluids (urine, saliva, vomit) are released, an employee shall immediately clean and sanitize the affected areas.
- The outdoor dining area shall not be fully enclosed – a fully enclosed dining area shall be considered as part of the interior of the facility.
- Business operators must still follow local ordinances related to sidewalk, public nuisance, and sanitation issues.



Please contact your local Environmental Health District Office if you have any questions.
Visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/EH/about/district-offices.htm> to locate an office near you.