



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BULLETIN



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## GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF PET DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS

There has been interest on the part of restaurant owners and members of the community to allow pet dogs in the outdoor dining areas. As a result of the community interest, Environmental Health assessed the risk factor involved in the allowance of pet dogs in outdoor dining areas. After a meticulous review of supporting data and the department's policy, Los Angeles County Environmental Health made changes to the existing policy to include provisions for the allowance of pet dogs in outdoor dining areas.

Pet dogs may be allowed in outdoor dining areas of a food facility only at the discretion of the business operator and if the following requirements are met:

- A separate entrance is present where pets do not enter through the food establishment to reach the outdoor dining area.
- No food preparation shall be allowed at the outdoor dining area including the dispensing/mixing of drinks and ice.
- Customer multi-use or reusable utensils such as plates, silverware, glasses and bowls shall not be stored, displayed or pre-set at the outdoor dining area.
- Food and water served/provided to pets shall only be in single use disposable containers.
- Employee shall be prohibited from having direct contact with pets while on duty.
- Pets shall not be allowed on chairs, seats, benches, and tables.
- The outdoor dining area shall be maintained clean.
- In cases of excrement or other bodily fluids (urine, saliva, vomit), 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 to be part of the interior area of the facility).

Business operators still must follow local ordinances related to sidewalk, public nuisance, and sanitation issues.

