



County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health
Food and Housing Division



GUIDELINES FOR ALLOWING DOGS INTO OUTDOOR PATIO DINING

The Food & Housing Division (FHD) uses these guidelines to determine whether a food facility operator who chooses to allow dogs in an outdoor patio dining area should be cited for violating state law. A considerate consumer will follow these guidelines, and any other rules set by an operator, to avoid putting patio dining opportunities at risk. These guidelines do not override any applicable law.

For the restaurant operator:

- Service animals for people with disabilities can be allowed in any dining area. With the exception of service animals, no animals are allowed in indoor dining areas. The operator must determine whether each animal allowed in an indoor dining area is a service animal.
- Patrons may only bring dogs into outdoor patio dining areas directly from outdoors. The dog may not go through any other part of the food facility.
- The dog must be on a leash.
- Food facility workers may not prepare food in or near the outdoor dining area; this includes dispensing or mixing of drinks and ice. However, a beverage glass may be re-filled on the patio from a pitcher or other container.
- Employees can't touch the animals. Employees must clean and sanitize any accidents involving dog's bodily fluids and waste. Permissible areas should possess smooth, cleanable surfaces.
- Tableware will not be preset in the outdoor dining area.
- A sign visible to the public may be posted indicating access to the "Dog Friendly Outdoor Patio Area".
- The permissible patio area should be well ventilated.
- Hand sanitizer may be made available in the "Dog Friendly Patio."

For the consumer:

- Make sure your dog is well-behaved and on a leash. FHD expects operators to exclude undisciplined, uncontrolled and/or aggressive dogs.
- Do not walk or carry your dog through the restaurant to get to the patio area.
- Keep your dog close to you but not on surfaces such as tabletops and chairs, or any other surface intended for human use.
- Do not let your dog eat or drink out of the restaurant glassware or dishware. The restaurant may provide single use disposable containers.
- Clean up after your dog and notify the restaurant staff so they can do additional cleanup when necessary.

The presence of dogs in the outdoor dining area must not create a sanitation nuisance.