Pet Dogs on Outdoor Dining Patios

Nelson Kerr & Jackie Hampton
Department of Health & Human Services
Bureau of Environmental Health
Introduction

• Historically, animals have been prohibited from retail food facilities, including outdoor dining areas where food is served to customers by staff.

• Animals have always been permitted in outdoor dining areas where there is no food service (i.e. fast food outdoor dining areas where you take your own food outside)

• In 1990, ADA Act permitted service animals to come inside a food facility in places customers are allowed (dining room, restrooms). ADA animals must comply with sanitary & hygiene issues.
CA Retail Food Code

• All California City and State Health Departments use the CA Retail Food Code (CRFC) to regulate food safety issues & protect public health.

• CRFC, section 114259.5 states “..live animals may not be allowed in a food facility” ...some exemptions noted

• Food facility includes areas where food is stored, prepared, packaged, served, or vended. Food is “served” on the outdoor patio.
Health Departments Evaluating Risks and Developing New Policies

• Various Health Departments beginning to allow dogs in outdoor dining areas because food is not prepared or plated there, but only delivered by staff.

• Marin, Santa Barbara, and most recently, LA County Health Departments now allow dogs on outdoor dining areas with certain sanitation and hygiene restrictions.

• Health Depts. don’t make it mandatory to allow dogs on outdoor patios, but leave it up to the discretion of the food facility owner/operator.
Health Effects of Disease Transmission from Pets

- Loma Linda University contracted by CCDEH to do a literature review.

- Numerous scientific studies documenting disease transmission from pets to humans.

- However, risks are low if certain safety, sanitation, and hygiene practices are in place.
Long Beach DHHS Proposal

- Obtain Approval from City Council on Policy
- Develop Internal Policy and Procedures (no ordinance change required)
- Develop Informational Bulletin for Facility Operators
  - Send letter to operators and provide “Dog Friendly” sign
Long Beach DHHS Proposal

• Develop Informational Handouts for General Public
  – Post on website
  – Make handout available at food facilities

• Provide training to participating facilities

• Policy will be a “soft” rollout. Initial implementation strategy will focus primarily on education of the operator and public
Long Beach DHHS Proposal

- Establish e-mail for customer complaints
- Investigate complaints
- Review policy after one year
Long Beach DHHS Proposal
Specific Requirements

• Require posting of sign for those outdoor patios allowing dogs (see attached draft sign)
• A separate entrance will be required for dogs, i.e. dogs will not be allowed to walk through the facility to get to the outdoor dining patio
• Require mandatory sanitation and hygiene procedures (see attached draft bulletin)
Long Beach DHHS Proposal

Specific Requirements

- No food preparation on the patio.
- No pre-setting of tables at outdoor dining areas.
- Dogs shall not be allowed on seats, tables, countertops, or other similar surfaces in the outdoor dining patio.
Employees shall not have direct contact with dogs.

The outdoor dining patio must be continuously maintained clean and free of visible dog hair, dog dander, dog-related waste or debris. “Accidents” must be cleaned and sanitized immediately.
Questions or Comments?

Contact Information:

Nelson Kerr, EH Bureau Manager,
562-570-4170
Nelson.kerr@longbeach.gov

Jackie Hampton, Food Program Supervisor,
562-570-4144
Jackie.hampton@longbeach.gov