

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



Long Beach DHHS Proposal Specific Requirements

- 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

