



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## GUIDELINES FOR PET DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS

Restaurant owners and members of the community have expressed interest in allowing pet dogs to accompany their owners in outdoor dining areas associated with restaurants. In response, after weighing risk factors to public health and reviewing Federal law and Department policy, Riverside County Department of Environmental Health has made changes to existing policy to include provisions that allow pet dogs in these areas.

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

- A separate entrance is present where dogs 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.
- Employees shall be prohibited from having direct contact with pets while on duty.
- Pets shall not be allowed on chairs, seats, benches, or tables.
- The outdoor dining area shall be maintained in a clean manner.
- Employee(s) shall immediately clean and sanitize affected areas of any excrement or other bodily fluids (urine, saliva, vomit, etc.).
- The outdoor dining area shall not be fully enclosed. Any fully enclosed dining area shall be considered to be part of the interior area of the facility.
- Local ordinances related to sidewalk, public nuisance, and sanitation issues must be followed at all times.

